

Headline	Category	Blurb	URL	Day	Search terms
OHIO PUTS POLICE BODYCAM FOOTAGE BEHIND A PAYWALL	ACAB	OHIO GOV. MIKE DEWINE signed into law on Thursday changes to the state's public records statute that allow law enforcement agencies to charge hundreds of dollars for body camera footage. Though such videos are central to watchdog reporting and police oversight, Ohio opted to join a handful of states that have made it easier for cops to put a steep price tag on transparency.	https://theintercept.com/2025/01/03/police-body-camera-footage-ohio/	2025/01/06	
How Ohio police justify charging hundreds of dollars for bodycam video	ACAB	The provision, which was part of HB 315, means police could charge for the "estimated cost" of processing the video — and you would have to pay before the footage is released. Governments could charge up to \$75 an hour for work, with a fee cap of \$750 per request.	https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/politics/ohio-politics/how-ohio-p	2025/01/06	
Biden made diversifying the federal bench a top priority. Here's a look at his legacy	Biden Admin.	President Biden leaves office this month after appointing 235 lawyers to the bench — more than a quarter of all active federal judges. He named the first Black woman to the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. He appointed more women of color to federal appeals courts than all previous presidents combined. And he picked a dozen openly LGBTQ judges — and the first four Muslim Americans — to serve on the federal bench.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/03/nx-s1-5239960/biden-judicial-legacy	2025/01/06	
‘We have our country back’: convicted January 6 rioters anticipate Trump pardons	Cesspool-January Six	“I’m just going to wait till after the election, make sure I don’t have to partake in a real insurrection if Trump loses, and ... then I’ll decide what I’m doing after,” he said about his thinking before November’s presidential election. Now that Trump has won, Fellows is counting on the president-elect to pardon him and other January 6 defendants. “With Trump in office, yeah, I’m starting to plan and [rebuild] my life again,” Fellows said.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/05/january-6-capitol-att	2025/01/06	
US newspapers are deleting old crime stories, offering subjects a ‘clean slate’	Crime	Civil rights advocates across the US have long fought to free people from their criminal records, with campaigns to expunge old cases and keep people’s past arrests private when they apply for jobs and housing. The efforts are critical, as more than 70 million Americans have prior convictions or arrests — roughly one in three adults. But the policies haven’t addressed one of the most damaging ways past run-ins with police can derail people’s lives: old media coverage.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/04/newspaper-crime-st	2025/01/06	
30-year mortgage rate hits 6-month high	Economy-Housing	Some newsrooms are working to fill that gap. A handful of local newspapers across the US have in recent years launched programs to review their archives and consider requests to remove names or delete old stories to protect the privacy of subjects involved in minor crimes.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/04/current-mortgage-rate-30-year-fixed	2025/01/06	
Bats catch a lift from storm winds on long-distance migrations	Environment-Animals	Historically, bat migration has been a bit of a black box. While scientists have learned lots about how birds migrate, the handful of bat species that make long-distance journeys have been tougher to study.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/04/nx-s1-5248252/bats-catch-a-lift-from-st	2025/01/06	
2025 climate reality check: Trump threatens coal demand and AI	Environment-Climate crisis	So Hume and his colleagues had to design one. They created specialized tags weighing just over a gram that measured how the animal is moving, as well as temperature. Unlike some other tags, which measure animal movements but must be retrieved by scientists to download the data, these new tags broadcast their information to a wireless network, similar to how a cell phone does. That allows the researchers to triangulate their position and follow the bats’ journey.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/03/global-energy-transition-targets-foss	2025/01/06	
With negligible rain in 8 months, Southern California swings toward drought	Environment-Drought	“We found that a lot of bats are actually migrating before storms come through,” says Hume. In the spring, storms are typically preceded by warm fronts that generate strong winds that usually blow in the right direction for migration. That translates into significant energy savings for the bats, Hume says, which can migrate nearly 1000 miles.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/few-storms-8-months-southern-11002360	2025/01/06	
‘A place for kids to play and a place to store water’: the stormwater capture zone that is also a playground	Environment-water	Global coal demand is proving very persistent. The International Energy Agency’s latest outlook is more pessimistic than the 2023 and 2022 versions on the most CO2-heavy fuel	https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/03/hoboken-new-je	2025/01/06	
‘Ironic’: climate-driven sea level rise will overwhelm major oil ports, study shows	Environment-water	Big banks are recalibrating, too. In recent days and weeks, a number of Wall Street giants like Morgan Stanley and Citigroup left the UN-affiliated Net-Zero Banking Alliance.	https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/04/climate-driven-s	2025/01/06	
Winter storm to usher in severe Arctic outbreak across U.S.	Environment-winter weather	“While the supply of clean energy is growing faster than it ever has in history ... it is not yet fast enough to curtail the growth in fossil fuel demand, let alone displace existing fossil fuel consumption,” their recent 2025 outlook states.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/04/winter-storm-hits-us-arctic-outbreak	2025/01/06	
Heaviest snowfall in over a decade: Mega winter storm bears down on millions	Environment-winter weather	California is entering the fourth month of what is typically the rainy season, but in the Southland, the landscape is beginning to show signs of drought. The last time Los Angeles recorded rainfall over a tenth of an inch — the threshold that officials typically consider helpful for thirsty plants and the reduction of wildfire risk — was May 5, when downtown received just 0.13 inches of rain.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/major-winter-storm-bring-blizzard-090242	2025/01/06	
No Jan. 6 disruptions are expected as Trump’s win boosts Republicans’ faith in elections — for now	Government	Located at the corner of 12th and Madison streets, one of Hoboken’s newest playgrounds, known as ResilientCity Park, has for the past 15 months been helping to mitigate the effects of flooding in Hoboken by doubling as a storage area for roughly 2m gallons of stormwater runoff. City officials say it is the largest resiliency park in the state.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/no-jan-6-disruptions-expected-123854011	2025/01/06	
Antibiotic emergency ‘could claim 40 million lives in next 25 years’	Health-Antibiotics	The park, which sits on five acres barely a mile and a half from the Lincoln Tunnel into Manhattan, features swing sets, slides, a basketball court and an athletic field — and, underneath it all, a below-ground tank capable of holding hundreds of thousands of gallons of stormwater that city officials say would have otherwise spilled on to the streets or streamed into the basements of Hoboken homes and businesses.	https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/jan/05/antibiotic-emergency	2025/01/06	
California declares a state of emergency as a new severe bird flu case was discovered. What it means for the rest of the country	Health-Bird flu	Building climate-resilient — or climate-smart — playgrounds is part of a growing movement among municipalities and environmental advocacy groups in the US. While precise figures for the numbers of play areas around the country that have been reconfigured as climate-friendly spaces are elusive, the Trust for Public Land, a nonprofit conservation group, estimates it has helped fund the construction of more than 300 such play spaces in communities around the country, including Philadelphia, New York and Los Angeles.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/california-declares-state-emergency-seve	2025/01/06	
Ex-FDA chief says Biden ‘mishandling’ bird flu, urges swift action from Trump	Health-Bird flu	Rising sea levels driven by the climate crisis will overwhelm many of the world’s biggest oil ports, analysis indicates. Scientists said the threat was ironic as fossil fuel burning causes global heating. They said reducing emissions by moving to renewable energy would halt global heating and deliver more reliable energy.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/ex-fda-chief-says-biden-211924379.html	2025/01/06	
Alcohol stocks sink after cancer alarm bell	Health-Cancer	Thirteen of the ports with the highest supertanker traffic will be seriously damaged by just 1 metre of sea level rise, the analysis found. The researchers said two low-lying ports in Saudi Arabia — Ras Tanura and Yanbu — were particularly vulnerable. Both are operated by Aramco, the Saudi state oil firm, and 98% of the country’s oil exports leave via these ports.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/03/alcohol-stocks-cancer-surgeon-gene	2025/01/06	
Covid and flu rates rise across the US, according to the CDC	Health-Covid	An Arctic outbreak partially tied to the polar vortex encircling the far north is set to bring some of the coldest air in years to locations east of the Rocky Mountains during the next two to three weeks.	https://www.theguardian.com/science/2025/jan/04/covid-flu-rates-rise-a	2025/01/06	

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		The holidays came with a side of flu for many Americans, with 40 states reporting high or very high levels of illness last week, according to the latest government health data.			
Sick season is in full force. What the latest CDC figures show	Health- Covid	Last week's flu activity was particularly intense in the South, Southwest and western U.S. The states reporting lesser amounts of suffering were mostly in the northern Great Plains and in New England.			
		So far this season, the CDC estimates, there have been at least 5.3 million flu illnesses, 63,000 hospitalizations, and 2,700 deaths — including at least 11 children.	https://apnews.com/article/flu-season-holidays-cdc-d6abb791c7a2a85d	2025/01/06	
Getting your steps in can reduce depression, research finds	Health- Depression	Researchers analyzed 33 studies examining the movements of nearly 100,000 adults using smartphones, pedometers and other fitness trackers. Those who clocked more daily steps were less likely to report depressive symptoms or be diagnosed with the condition than those who walked less.			
		"It's promising evidence that even small amounts of movement can add up to support better mental health," said Kamel Choi, a clinical psychologist and assistant professor at Harvard Medical School, who was not involved with the meta-analysis.	https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/01/05/nx-s1-5247	2025/01/06	
What is HMPV? New Virus Outbreak in China Explained	Health- HMPV	Many are concerned about HMPV, formally known as the human metapneumovirus, after reports of a new virus outbreak in China. Various social media posts warn that Chinese hospitals are being swarmed with patients who have contracted HMPV and other viruses, many of whom are experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms. Discovered in 2001 in the Netherlands, HMPV is a seasonal virus that typically causes lung infections.			
		As noted by the American Lung Association, HMPV is a leading cause of acute respiratory infection and, similar to influenza, is spread by close contact with an infected individual. It causes symptoms close to the common cold that typically last two to five days. Children, the elderly, and people with weakened immune systems are most at risk of developing further complications like pneumonia.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/hmpv-virus-outbreak-china-explained-222	2025/01/06	
Tuberculosis rates plunge when families living in poverty get a monthly cash payout	Health- Poverty	There's a growing body of research that suggests economic programs that give money to very poor people can have major health benefits. Now, a new study — out on Friday in Nature Medicine — proves this approach can work when it comes to the world's deadliest infectious disease: tuberculosis, which killed more than 1.25 million people in 2023.			
		The study is impressive in its scale. Researchers combined two Brazilian datasets — one from the Ministry of Health and one that tracks social programs for the poorest half of the population — enabling them to zero in on 54 million people in Brazil living in poverty. In this group, 44% of them received cash each month from a government program while 56% did not. The families that received the cash were significantly less likely to contract TB. Among the extremely poor in this category, TB cases and deaths dropped by more than 50% and in the Indigenous population the drop was even more dramatic: more than 60%.	https://www.npr.org/sections/goats-and-soda/2025/01/03/nx-s1-524601	2025/01/06	
US teen drug, alcohol and tobacco use continues to decline	Health- Teens	The results show that a whopping 66% of 12th graders reported no use of alcohol, marijuana, cigarettes or e-cigarettes in the past 30 days. This is the highest abstinence rate recorded since the survey began tracking it in 2017.			
		Among 10th graders, 80% reported abstaining, marking another record. For 8th graders, 90% reported no recent use, maintaining the same level as in the previous survey.	https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/jan/05/teen-drug-alcohol-us	2025/01/06	
South Korean protesters brave cold to demand Yoon's ouster as detention deadline looms	International- South korea	Hundreds of South Koreans, bundled up against freezing temperatures and snow, rallied overnight into Sunday near the residence of impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol, calling for his ouster and arrest, as authorities prepared to renew their efforts to detain him over his short-lived martial law decree.			
		Federal employees could be required to return to the office five days per week as a way to reduce its workforce under President-elect Donald Trump's administration - but economists say that it could also cost the government productivity and money.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/05/g-s1-41103/south-korean-protesters-de	2025/01/06	
Musk and Ramaswamy want to force federal workers back to the office. Economists aren't convinced.	Political Cesspool	The House voted mostly along party lines Friday to adopt a rules package that protects newly reelected Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) from a potential ouster.			
		The new rules make it so that a vote on removing the speaker can only be brought if at least nine Republicans support what is called a "motion to vacate."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/musk-ramaswamy-want-force-federal-18	2025/01/06	
House approves new rules protecting Mike Johnson from ouster	Politics- House	A state autopsy has ruled that a Black man found hanging in an abandoned Alabama home in late September died by suicide — a conclusion that contradicts a private autopsy commissioned by his family, which found no definitive evidence he died by suicide.			
		The new rules make it so that a vote on removing the speaker can only be brought if at least nine Republicans support what is called a "motion to vacate."	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/03/mike-johnson-motion-to-vacate-ouster	2025/01/06	
2 autopsies for Black man found hanging in Alabama produce differing conclusions	Racism	A judicial policymaking body on Thursday rejected a request by Democratic lawmakers to refer conservative U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas to the Department of Justice to examine claims that he failed to disclose gifts and travel provided by a wealthy benefactor.			
		Mangione's popularity among some people online is complicated, and I won't try to untangle it here (read this or this for some smart analysis). But you've probably already observed some of this online: There are a lot of people posting about Mangione and running afoul of content guidelines that they'd never usually run up against — rules designed for posts praising ISIS or Mexican drug cartels, for instance.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/2-autopsies-black-man-found-191917130	2025/01/06	
US Supreme Court's Thomas will not be referred to Justice Department	Supreme Court Ethics	The result is some confusion and frustration among users.			
		Content moderation is an art, not a science, and there's a spectrum of differences between a statement like "Luigi was justified" and a meme about his looks or an ironic fan cam edit video.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/us-supreme-courts-thomas-not-23112606	2025/01/06	
Pro-Luigi Mangione content is filling up social platforms — and it's a challenge to moderate it	Technology- Moderation	A federal appeals court struck down the Federal Communications Commission's net neutrality rules, ending a 20-year push to regulate internet service providers like a public utility.			
		A U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Cincinnati on Thursday ruled that the FCC did not have legal authority to reinstate the landmark net neutrality rules.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/03/nx-s1-5247840/net-neutrality-fcc-struck	2025/01/06	
Net neutrality is struck, ending a long battle to regulate ISPs like public utilities	Technology- Net Neutrality	It's a largely partisan issue that has found Democrats on the side of so-called net neutrality in an effort to hold ISPs more accountable for providing fast, safe and reliable internet for all. The decision deals a blow to the Biden Administration, which prioritized implementing net neutrality rules.			
		According to the Financial Times, AI bots are compiling information about unsuspecting email users by analyzing their "social media activity to determine what topics they may be most likely to respond to."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/gmail-outlook-apple-users-urged-154318	2025/01/06	
Gmail, Outlook and Apple users urged to watch out for this new email scam: Cybersecurity experts sound alarm	Technology- Scams	Scam emails are subsequently sent to the users that appear as if they're composed by family and friends. Because of the personal nature of the email, the recipient is unable to identify that it is actually nefarious.			
		Chinese state-sponsored hackers broke into the US Treasury Department's systems earlier this month and were able to access employee workstations and some unclassified documents, American officials have said.	https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c3weys20e7o	2025/01/06	
US Treasury says it was hacked by China in 'major incident'	Technology- Security	The Treasury Department deemed the breach a "major incident" after disclosing it via a letter notifying lawmakers to the incident.			
		The US agency said it had been working with the FBI and other agencies to investigate the impact of the hack.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/03/nx-s1-5247805/las-vegas-cybertruck-ex	2025/01/06	
The soldier who died in Cybertruck explosion wrote it was intended as a 'wake-up call'	Terrorism- Las Vegas	This was not a terrorist attack. It was a wakeup call. Americans only pay attention to spectacles and violence. What better way to get my point across than a stunt with fireworks and explosives, Livelsberger wrote in a letter found by authorities who released only excerpts of it.			
		Bright yellow vehicle-resistant blockades have been newly installed on sidewalks on and surrounding Bourbon Street. NBC reports the city has had them since 2017.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/03/trump-biden-economics-ev	2025/01/06	
New Orleans leaders face questions over preventability of terror attack	Terrorism- NOLA	In a now-viral video clip, NOPD chief Anne Kirkpatrick acknowledges that the blockades, called archers, were in storage in New Orleans, and she didn't know about them previously.			
		As multiple media outlets ask similar questions, the New York Times published an article headlined "Could Better Security Have Stopped the New Orleans Terror Attack?" on Thursday. It details what it calls "a confidential security report" from 2019 that outlined how Bourbon Street was vulnerable to a vehicle attack like the one that took place this week.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/sen-adam-schiff-says-orleans-180326222	2025/01/06	
Sen. Adam Schiff says the New Orleans attack shows Kash Patel shouldn't lead the FBI	Terrorism- NOLA	Plus, experts say vehicle attacks are becoming more common because they're incredibly simple and extremely difficult to prevent. Axios' Avery Lotz reports.			
		Schiff told NBC News "Meet the Press" that the terrorist attack "underscores" why it's important to have an FBI director "that has experience, has judgment, that has character, that will prioritize defending the country against the violence we saw in New Orleans or the violence we saw on Jan. 6."	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/03/trump-biden-economics-ev	2025/01/06	
NYC starts driver congestion charging despite opposition	Traffic	Schiff added that the Senate should not confirm "someone whose top priority is political vendettas, who believes in Deep State conspiracy thinking, not someone who is as unqualified as Kash Patel."			
		New York launched a controversial scheme Sunday to charge drivers entering parts of the city, a first in the United States, putting local authorities on a collision course with President-elect Donald Trump.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/nyc-starts-driver-congestion-charging-05	2025/01/06	
How Trump might rewire Bidenomics	Trump Admin	State governor Kathy Hochul announced in November that drivers entering areas of Manhattan south of Central Park would pay a daytime toll of \$9 from midnight January 4.			
		The man tapped to be President-elect Trump's top White House economist published a detailed critique of President Biden's industrial policies last February. It offers a sense of the strategies for reindustrializing the U.S. economy sought by those with the president-elect's ear.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-keeps-blaming-left-america-12000	2025/01/06	
Trump is days away from having to confront the kinds of crises he's long been railing against	Trump Admin	Stephen Miran, Trump's designee to chair the Council of Economic Advisers, argued that industrial policy should focus on supply-side reforms that make it easier for companies to invest in factories, and be driven by demand from the defense industry.			
		He is critical of heavy subsidies for electric cars and labor, environmental, and other regulations that, in Miran's view, make the U.S. too inhospitable to manufacturing.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/03/trump-hush-money-sentence-new-y	2025/01/06	
Trump to be sentenced before inauguration Day but faces no jail time	Trump Bulshit	If the first days of 2025 are any indication, it will be a difficult opening to his presidency. A driver plowed a truck into a crowd of revelers in New Orleans, killing more than a dozen people in what federal authorities are describing as a "premeditated" act of terrorism. Hours later, authorities were investigating the detonation of a Tesla Cybertruck in front of the Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas. And that all came after the government said Chinese state-sponsored hackers breached the Treasury Department in a "major" cybersecurity incident, adding fuel to the fire started by an ongoing breach of U.S. telecom systems by Chinese hackers.			
		The New York judge overseeing President-elect Trump's hush money case upheld the historic criminal conviction and scheduled sentencing for Jan. 10, court documents show.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/03/tim-cook-apple-donate-1-million-tru	2025/01/06	
Scoop: Apple CEO Tim Cook donates \$1 million to Trump inauguration	Trump Bulshit	Trump's spokesperson, Steven Cheung, said in a statement that Friday's order "is a direct violation of the Supreme Court's Immunity decision and other longstanding jurisprudence."			
		Apple CEO Tim Cook will personally donate \$1 million to President-elect Trump's inaugural committee, sources with knowledge of the donation tell Axios.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/03/tim-cook-apple-donate-1-million-tru	2025/01/06	

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Donald Trump fumes over flag flying at half-staff to honor Jimmy Carter during inauguration	Trump Bulshit	The Democrats are all 'giddy' about our magnificent American Flag potentially being at 'half mast' during my inauguration, Trump said in a post on Truth Social, incorrectly using the term that refers to flags being flown halfway up the mast on a ship, not a flag pole. "They think it's so great, and are so happy about it because, in actuality, they don't love our Country, they only think about themselves." "Look at what they've done to our once GREAT America over the past four years - It's a total mess!" Trump said. "In any event, because of the death of President Jimmy Carter, the Flag may, for the first time ever during an Inauguration of a future President, be at half mast. Nobody wants to see this, and no American can be happy about it. Let's see how it plays out."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/donald-trump-fumes-over-flag-19501450/	2025/01/06	
Pete Hegseth has enough votes to become nation's Secretary of Defense, top Republican tells Trump	Trump Cesspool	President-elect Donald Trump has reportedly been reassured by a top Republican that his controversial pick for Defense Secretary, Pete Hegseth, has enough backing from the GOP to be confirmed by the Senate.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/pete-hegseth-enough-votes-become-043/	2025/01/06	
Four years after his supporters invaded the US Capitol, Trump is more powerful than ever	Trump Cesspool	The democracy that Trump tried to desecrate will enshrine his return to power. --- Trump, with a storm of misinformation, has convinced millions of Americans of his lie about the 2020 election being stolen. Republicans have rebranded the January 6 rioters as "tourists," persecuted victims and heroes, despite the hundreds of convictions handed down by courts. Trump has promised to pardon those found guilty over the attack. He launched his 2024 campaign with a recording of the National Anthem by the "J6 choir," sung by prisoners jailed for their role in the riot. And he rebranded January 6, 2021, a "beautiful day" and a "day of love." --- This could hardly be more misleading. The truth of January 6 was told in shocking details by witnesses and law enforcement officers to a congressional select committee when the House was still under Democratic control. "It was carnage. It was chaos," said Caroline Edwards, a Capitol Police officer whose testimony was interspersed with footage of her being knocked unconscious by Trump's supporters and who described slipping on the spilled blood of her colleagues. "I am not combat trained, and on that day I was just hours of hand-to-hand combat," Edwards said in June 2022.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/four-years-supporters-invaded-us-05004/	2025/01/06	
Former Capitol Police officers call Trump's vows to pardon Jan. 6 rioters 'a betrayal'	Trump Cesspool	Former Capitol Police officers present during the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection said President-elect Trump's commitment to pardon rioters is "a betrayal." Dunn said that forgiving insurrectionists for their violent actions shows a lack of accountability from the commander-in-chief. "They broke the law, violated police officers, attacked us, and then went back and said we did it in the name of Donald Trump," Dunn said. "And then Donald Trump is going to pardon them and say it's okay, all is forgiven."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/former-capitol-police-officers-call-171226/	2025/01/06	
Trump appoints (and rebukes) Morgan Ortagus as deputy Middle East envoy	Trump Picks	President-elect Trump announced on Friday that he is appointing Morgan Ortagus, who served as State Department spokesperson in his first term, as deputy special presidential envoy for Middle East peace. The appointment came with a rebuke. Trump noted that Ortagus came highly recommended but had criticized him in the past. "Early on Morgan fought me for three years, but hopefully has learned her lesson," Trump wrote.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/03/trump-morgan-ortagus-middle-east	2025/01/06	
Jurassic footprints are discovered on a 'dinosaur highway' in southern England	Weird World	Now a team of over 100 researchers from the Universities of Birmingham and Oxford have determined that the mysterious bumps found at Dewars Farm Quarry in Oxfordshire were in fact dinosaur tracks dating back to the Middle Jurassic period, around 166 million years ago.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/04/nx-s1-5248283/jurassic-footprints-dinos	2025/01/06	
The dill of a lifetime? In a nation that's enduring its own sour patch, the pickle dominated 2024	Weird World	At the intersection of health and edginess, traditionalism and hipsterism, global culture and the American stomach, the pickle in 2024 found itself caught in a maelstrom of words like "viral" and "trending" just as its food-as-fetish-object cousins — bacon and ranch dressing, notably — experienced in years past. Prepared Foods, an industry newsletter, said it outright in September: "The pickle obsession is at an all-time high."	https://apnews.com/article/pickle-trende-2024-dill-food-snack-44e853f	2025/01/06	
Los Angeles man trapped in circling Waymo on way to airport says he missed his flight home	Weird World	A Los Angeles man said he recently missed his flight home after getting trapped on his way to the airport in a Waymo that wouldn't stop making circles in a parking lot. The customer service representative told Johns to open his Waymo app and that she would try to pull the car over, but seemed to struggle with getting the vehicle to stop.	https://www.yahoo.com/tech/los-angeles-man-trapped-circling-1745202	2025/01/06	
Las Vegas Cybertruck Bomber Claimed NJ Drones Are Ultra-Advanced Chinese Military Tech With 'Gravitic Propulsion Systems'	Conspiracy theory	Drone activity over the state of New Jersey sure gave us a December to remember even if the official explanation is pretty disappointing. According to officials, they're just regular drones that people aren't used to seeing at night mixed with regular aircraft such as private planes and helicopters. Matthew Liveisberger, the man who shot himself before blowing up a Tesla Cybertruck in front of a hotel in Las Vegas, disagreed with that narrative, sending an email to a retired Army intelligence officer claiming they're advanced military drones with "gravitic propulsion systems," Newsweek reports.	https://autos.yahoo.com/las-vegas-cybertruck-bomber-claimed-163500/	2025/01/07	
Kamala Harris Announces New Federal Rule To Help People With Medical Debt	Economy- Debt	A new federal rule will block credit agencies from including medical debt in their reports on individuals, the Biden administration announced on Tuesday.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/kamala-harris-announces-federal-rule-10/	2025/01/07	
Shrinking trees and tuskless elephants: the strange ways species are adapting to humans	Environment-adaption	Shrinking mahogany trees Maggie nests with anti-bird spikes Brittle stars that like beer bottles Snails with paler shells to counter city heat Swallows with shorter wings to avoid cars Elephants losing their tusks to beat poachers	https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/06/evolution-specie	2025/01/07	
32 dolphins have died since an oil spill near southern Russia, experts say	Environment- Animals	Thirty-two dolphins have died since fuel oil spilled out of two storm-stricken tankers three weeks ago in the Kerch Strait, which separates the Russia-occupied Crimean Peninsula from Russia's southern Krasnodar region, an animal rescue group said Sunday.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/06/nx-s1-5250301/dolphins-dead-oil-spill-r	2025/01/07	
Powerful earthquake kills nearly 100 in Tibet, rattles Nepal	Environment- Earthquake	A magnitude 6.8 earthquake rocked the northern foothills of the Himalayas near one of Tibet's holiest cities on Tuesday, Chinese authorities said, killing at least 95 people and shaking buildings in neighbouring Nepal, Bhutan and India.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/china-reports-6-9-magnitude-013302826	2025/01/07	
Biden makes an 11th-hour move to block coastal oil drilling	Environment- Fossil fuels	President Biden is using a decades-old law to block drilling for oil in more than 625 million acres of U.S. ocean — the largest region a president has ever protected using this authority. It's a move designed to help cement his climate legacy, and one the incoming Trump administration is expected to challenge.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/06/nx-s1-5249765/biden-offshore-drilling-b	2025/01/07	
Snow in Atlanta? Winter storm may hit Georgia this week	Environment- winter weather	Computer models continue to show a winter storm impacting the Southeast into the weekend. The FOX 5 Storm Team feels confident that north Georgia will see a mixed bag of precipitation, including snow, sleet, freezing rain, and, for some, a cold rain.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/snow-atlanta-winter-storm-may-0344168/	2025/01/07	
The next round of bitter cold and snow will hit the southern US	Environment- winter weather	By early Tuesday, wind chill temperatures could dip into the teens to low-20's (as low as minus 10.5 C) from Texas across the Gulf Coast, according to the National Weather Service. A low-pressure system is then expected to form as soon as Wednesday near south Texas, bringing the potential of snow to parts of the state that include Dallas, as well as to Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/next-round-bitter-cold-snow-060143110.h	2025/01/07	
I Watched the Capitol Riot Unfold Right in Front of Me... What I Saw This Year Is Haunting.	Government- January Six	By the end of the nearly 30-minute session, Harris' demeanor was hard to read. She called out the totals: 312 electoral votes for Trump, and her own 226. The Republicans in Congress cheered Trump's win, while Democrats remained silent. I found something unsettling in their quiet acquiescence: It seemed less like a demonstration of higher principles and more like an act of submission. The political party that had helped stage and enable an insurrection didn't learn any lessons; the one that didn't had no real response left in the chamber.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/watched-capitol-riot-unfold-front-0016046	2025/01/07	
First human death from avian flu reported in U.S.	Health- Bird flu	When I left the Capitol grounds four years ago, I never imagined that Trump would be welcomed back in that way. But it's clear that half the country wants him there, and believes the system can still work. The next four years will put that to the test. Trump has already made comments about how his supporters will never need to vote again. Time will tell how far he'll take that. The calm of today may be remembered as a brief reprieve before four years of chaos, or it may be remembered as the day America stood by, refusing to see what its new president has promised. Neither outcome seems just.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/06/first-human-death-from-avian-flu-rep	2025/01/07	
From chickens to foxes, here's how bird flu is spreading across the US	Health- Bird flu	A Louisiana resident has died after being hospitalized for a severe case of H5N1 bird flu, the state's health department said Monday. This marks the first bird flu-related human death in the U.S. Louisiana's health department has not identified any additional cases of the illness or evidence of human transmission, the department said in a news release.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/06/first-human-death-from-avian-flu-rep	2025/01/07	
Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau resigns as party leader	International- Canada	As it spread around the world, tens of millions of chickens and turkeys were euthanized and thousands of birds have been killed or sickened, as well as land-based mammals and marine mammals. Around the world, bird flu has killed about half of the people known to have been infected. For now, the risk to people remains low, but the longer it lingers, researchers become more concerned about the possible mutations that could make it easier to transmit among humans and have a greater impact on human health.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/chickens-foxes-heres-bird-flu-183010687	2025/01/07	
Why is Canada's Justin Trudeau stepping down as prime minister?	International- Canada	Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau resigned from his position as the leader of the Liberal Party on Monday. The world's leading democracies are facing growing instability. Look to Germany, where Chancellor Olaf Scholz lost a confidence vote in parliament, or the unprecedented government collapse in France. His resignation came as polls indicated that the Liberal Party was set to be trounced by the opposition Conservative Party in the upcoming election, expected in or before October, Reuters reported.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/06/justin-trudeau-resigns-canada	2025/01/07	
Thousands without heating in Moldova's breakaway Transnistria region, after Russian gas supplies cut	International- Russia	Once the rising star of global progressive politics, Trudeau saw his approval ratings drop to a new low of only 33% late last year. The same poll revealed widespread frustration with economic malaise. Like many leaders in the west, Trudeau suffered under record inflation and high food prices. A domestic housing crisis, which saw house prices in some areas jumping by 30%-40% in recent years, has deepened resentment with the government. The head of Moldova's breakaway region Transnistria has urged residents to burn firewood for heating and warned that blackouts cannot be avoided, after Moscow stopped supplying gas via Ukraine. Vadim Krasnoselskiy, the president of the Russian-backed separatist sliver on Moldova's eastern flank, said in a message on Telegram on Friday that "1,500 multi-story apartment buildings have no heating and hot water. Almost 72,000 private households have no gas. One hundred and fifty gas boiler houses have been shut down."	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/06/why-is-canadas-justin-j	2025/01/07	
Civil rights group's lawsuit using Ku Klux Klan Act is last hope of holding Trump accountability for Jan. 6	January Six	The lawsuit filed by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law alleges that Trump and other defendants, including the white nationalist group Proud Boys, violated the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871. "There's a provision that prohibits a conspiracy to violate civil rights. You don't have to be wearing the hood in order to do that," Hewitt told theGrio. He added, "If you have multiple parties who are in communication to deprive people of their civil rights, to stop processes like execution of functions, like counting of ballots — that's what this type of law is tailor-made for."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/civil-rights-group-lawsuit-using-14424081	2025/01/07	

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Rudy Giuliani held in contempt of court over Georgia defamation case	Political Cesspool	A federal judge on Monday declared Rudy Giuliani in contempt of court for failing to respond to information requests in a defamation case brought by two Georgia election workers, multiple outlets reported.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/06/rudy-giuliani-contempt-of-court-geor	2025/01/07	
The last time I came to the Capitol I was tear-gassed in the lobby. This time was even worse	Political cesspool	Instead, Vice President Kamala Harris, fresh off her election defeat, entered the room to polite applause from both sides. She walked past a beaming Marjorie Taylor Greene, the congresswoman from Georgia and perhaps the biggest supporter of the mob that attacked this building four years ago. Laughing throughout, Taylor Greene appeared the happiest person in the room.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-	2025/01/07	
Young people have seen this country run by an older, and older and older generation'	Politics- Age	The attack was unique in American history, but familiar to countries around the world where democracy is faltering or nonexistent. In those places warlords don suits, history is rewritten, crimes are forgotten and buried and everyone has to adjust to the new reality.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/young-people-seen-country-run-1945090	2025/01/07	
Pentagon agrees to settle historic lawsuit with LGBTQ+ veterans over discharge status	Rainbow news	Only seven members of the House are under age 35. That's in contrast to 13 members of the House being 80 or over. That list does not include Kay Granger, a Texas lawmaker whose term ended last month. In December, it was reported that Granger had been living in an assisted-living facility for several months.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/06/nx-s1-5250269/pentagon-lawsuit-lgbtq	2025/01/07	
A very, very small number' of teens receive gender-affirming care, study finds	Rainbow news	Despite the ban on gay troops ended more than a decade ago, a surprisingly small fraction of the tens of thousands of vets affected have accessed benefits they are due. The Pentagon has now agreed to settle a class action lawsuit that may change that for about 35,000 veterans.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/06/nx-s1-5247	2025/01/07	
Permanent contraception surged after Roe v Wade, overturned, study finds	Reproductive rights	The Pentagon announced a proactive review of discharges under "don't ask, don't tell" — the 1993 Clinton administration policy that banned troops from being open about their sexuality — last October, but this proposed settlement agreed to Monday will speed up that process considerably if approved by California's Northern District Court. Instead of individual applications, the settlement will allow veterans to have their records reviewed in large groups, delivering access to VA benefits and Honorable Discharge papers as early as this summer.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/06/permanent-contrace	2025/01/07	
Justice Department urges Supreme Court to reject Trump's push to pause TikTok ban	Technology- Social media	How many transgender teens in the U.S. are receiving medical care related to gender transitions? According to a peer-reviewed research letter published Monday in JAMA Pediatrics, the answer is very, very few.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/justice-department-urges-supreme-court-	2025/01/07	
Johnson tells Republicans Trump wants one big policy bill as party charts course on agenda	Trump Admin	The care at issue includes puberty blockers and cross-sex hormone therapy — medications that help transgender teens develop characteristics that align with their gender identity. Use of these treatments is supported by major American medical groups including the American Academy of Pediatrics.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/johnson-tells-republicans-trump-wants-16	2025/01/07	
Congress certifies Trump's 2024 victory four years after Capitol riot	Trump Admin	"The total number of youth who had any diagnosis of gender dysphoria was less than 18,000," Hughes explains. "Among those folks, there were less than 1,000 [youth] that accessed puberty blockers and less than 2,000 that ever had access to hormones."	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/06/congress-electoral-college-certify-ca	2025/01/07	
Trump seeks to block 'imminent' release of special counsel Jack Smith's report	Trump Bulshit	In other words, the study found that less than 0.1% of teenagers with private insurance in the U.S. are transgender and receive gender-related medicines.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-seeks-block-imminent-release-060	2025/01/07	
'This Is Sickening': Trump Slammed for Jan. 6 Take at Secret Mar-a-Lago Bash	Trump Bulshit	In the months after the US supreme court overturned Roe v Wade, permanent contraception in the form of tubal sterilizations and vasectomies surged among young adults living in states likely to ban abortion, new research released on Monday found.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/sickening-trump-slammed-jan-6-1608130	2025/01/07	
Donald Trump Is Building a New Army of Foot Soldiers	Trump Cesspool	Compared to May 2022, when the opinion overturning Roe leaked, August 2022 saw 95% more vasectomies and 70% more tubal sterilizations performed on people between the ages of 19 and 26, according to the study, which was conducted by researchers at the George Washington University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Michigan.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/donald-trump-building-army-foot-100007	2025/01/07	
'Deck chairs on the Titanic': How Trump already upended DOJ's ongoing efforts to arrest and prosecute January 6 rioters	Trump Cesspool	The Justice Department on Friday urged the Supreme Court to reject President-elect Donald Trump's request to delay the implementation of a law that would effectively ban TikTok in the U.S. or force its sale by its Chinese parent company by Jan. 19.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/deck-chairs-titanic-trump-already-100042	2025/01/07	
Proud Boys leader serving 22 years for Jan. 6 conviction asks Trump for a pardon	Trump Cesspool	The effort to include border, energy and tax policies in a single bill is a shift from where Senate Republican leader John Thune has been, but it also represents an evolution in how Trump's team has begun to see the legislative landscape over the last several weeks. A source familiar with this change told CNN it had become clear with the spending bill debate and a narrow speaker's race that there will be very little room to maneuver two separate bills — one on the border and energy and one regarding tax policies.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/proud-boys-leader-serving-22-21344327	2025/01/07	
'Pretty awesome': Illinois man finds decades-old Christmas gift inside wall of childhood home	Weird World	Four years after President-elect Trump's supporters stormed the Capitol, Congress on Monday peacefully certified his 2024 victory with Vice President Harris overseeing her own loss. Though the electoral college certification proceeded peacefully, local law enforcement stepped up security around the U.S. Capitol out in an abundance of caution.	https://www.wate.com/news/pretty-awesome-illinois-man-finds-decades-old-christmas-gift	2025/01/07	
Primate ballerina: errant monkey in a tutu leads Missouri police a merry dance	Weird World	President-elect Donald Trump and his former co-defendants in the Florida classified documents case launched an effort Monday to block the release of a final report by special counsel Jack Smith that also addresses the election interference case.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/06/monkey-tutu-missouri	2025/01/07	
Boeing CEO Dave Calhoun admits 'something went wrong' after a worker who flagged a safety issue got 40 manager calls in two days	Boeing	Against a backdrop of clips documenting Eastman's efforts, Trump is understood to have told party attendees, "I'm a big fan of John Eastman. Y'know, he was right. He happened to be right. That's why they changed the law and nobody wants to talk about that."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/boeing-ceo-dave-calhoun-admits-224755	2025/01/08	
House passes immigration crackdown as first act of 2025	Borders and immigration	Correspondent Vaughn Hilyard replied, "Let's be very clear, there's no coincidence that this event in which he welcomed not only John Eastman, but Michael Flynn, and Jeffrey Clark—the man [who] urged the DOJ to put off all statements about the 2020 election—and they were up onstage, Rudy Giuliani was up onstage, and Peter Navarro, who spent time for not complying with the subpoena from the Jan. 6 committee, and they were watching a film that was a documentary about John Eastman."	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/07/house-passes-laken-riley-act-2025	2025/01/08	
Oil companies pay record \$5.6M settlement after FTC alleges illegal coordination	Economy- FTC	... One exception is the armed militia movement, which is having a mild revival. Hurt by a massive Facebook deplatforming in 2020, Tess Owen recently observed these groups "have been quietly reorganizing, ramping up recruitment and rhetoric" in recent months. Some groups hope to help Trump's deportation scheme.	https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/5071962-oil-companies-p	2025/01/08	

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		The No 10 spot this year went to the University of North Texas health science center in Fort Worth for allegedly neglecting to notify next of kin before selling body parts of deceased people. The ninth spot was given to the outdated practice of baby tongue-tie cutting, which continues to be falsely touted as a cure for several ailments, from sleep apnea to nursing trouble, according to the New York Times. Shady billing practices from Zynex Medical, a company specializing in nerve-stimulation devices used for pain management, took the No 8 slot. The seventh spot was given to the case of Sara England and her infant son, Amari Vaca. After the three-month-old experienced severe respiratory distress two months after open-heart surgery, doctors at Natavidad medical center in Salinas, California, chose to have him transferred via air ambulance to a medical center in San Francisco. He recovered and Cigna later deemed the service "not medically necessary". The family was given a \$97,599 bill. At No 6 was Medicare's mass billing for urinary catheters. As many as 450,000 beneficiaries had bills for catheters submitted on their behalf in 2023, representing an 800% increase over previous years. Just seven suppliers were responsible for \$2bn of these suspicious charges. Taking the No 5 spot was Memorial medical center (a former non-profit turned for-profit) in Las Cruces, New Mexico, for allegations of refusing cancer treatment to patients or demanding upfront payments, even from those with insurance. ProPublica's uncovering of a once-celebrated oncologist's pattern of malpractice and trails of suspicious deaths came in at No 4. Dr Thomas C Weiner of Helena, Montana, reportedly subjected one patient to unnecessary cancer treatments for more than a decade, amid a myriad of other shocking revelations. Lumakras, a cancer drug from Amgen that was granted accelerated FDA approval at a daily dose of 960mg, despite findings that a 240mg dose offered similar efficacy with reduced toxicity and risk of side effects, grabbed the third spot. At No 2 was the behemoth that is UnitedHealth and how it's become the fourth-largest business in the nation. Doctors for United have reported pressure to reduce time spent with patients, and make patients seem as sick as possible through aggressive medical coding tactics. ... In a highly competitive year, the top spot went to Steward Health Care, whose CEO, Ralph de la Torre, is accused of prioritizing private-equity profits over patient care. His financial scheming led to bankruptcy, leaving hospitals in shambles, employees laid off and communities with less healthcare access.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/07/annual-awards-healthcare	2025/01/08	
Annual 'winners' for most egregious US healthcare profiteering announced	Economy- health care				
US Justice Department accuses six major landlords of scheming to keep rents high	Economy- housing	The U.S. Justice Department is suing several large landlords for allegedly coordinating to keep Americans' rents high by using both an algorithm to help set rents and privately sharing sensitive information with their competitors to boost profits. A record 24 million people have signed up for insurance coverage through the Affordable Care Act, former President Barack Obama's landmark health legislation, as the program awaits an uncertain future under a Republican-controlled White House and Congress. Never have so many people enrolled in health care coverage through the government marketplace, a point of pride for many Democrats but a red flag to some Republicans.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/us-justice-department-accuses-six-23561	2025/01/08	
'Obamacare' hits record enrollment but an uncertain future awaits under Trump	Economy-Health care	Senior Justice Department officials serving under Donald Trump's first administration may have violated federal law in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election by pushing for pandemic-related investigations that targeted states with Democratic governors, and then leaking private information about those investigations to friendly media outlets in a potential attempt to influence the election, according to a previously-undisclosed report from the Justice Department's internal watchdog.	https://apnews.com/article/obamacare-aca-health-care-coverage-biden	2025/01/08	
Trump DOJ officials may have tried to influence 2020 election through media leaks: IG report	Election interference	The National Weather Service has declared a rare "particularly dangerous situation" from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. tomorrow. This for people living in Anaheim, Irvine, Santa Ana, Corona, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga and Riverside. Winds are predicted to be in excess of 80 mph in some areas and forecasters say "any fires that develop will spread VERY rapidly!" Meanwhile, a developing storm is expected to bring more wintry weather across the country, threatening the normally warm areas of New Mexico, Texas and other areas in the South with snow and freezing rain starting Wednesday.	https://abcnews.go.com/US/internal-watchdog-found-doj-officials-trump	2025/01/08	
Wild weather brings winds and fire to the West, snow to the South	Environment- Climate crisis	Residents living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area could see 3 to 6 inches of snow by Thursday, according to the National Weather Service. For that metro, which received just 1.5 inches of snow from 2023-2024, it's being considered a major storm. Further south, the NWS said, light snow, ice and sleet is possible, likely creating dangerous road conditions and impacting travel and schools.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/07/nx-s1-5251300/weather-texas-snow-sg	2025/01/08	
Major Florida grower to end citrus operations after years of hurricanes and tree disease	Environment- Climate crisis	Alico Inc. announced Monday that it planned to wind down its citrus operations after the current crop is harvested later this year. About 3,400 citrus acres (1,376 hectares) will be managed by third-party caretakers for another season through 2026. The Fort Myers-based company owns 53,371 acres (21,598.5 hectares) across eight counties in Florida and 48,700 acres (19,708 hectares) of oil, gas and mineral rights in the state. About a quarter of its land holdings will now be slated for potentially developing commercial or residential projects in the near and long term future, the company said in a news release. The company said its citrus production had declined by 73% over the past decade. The impact of Hurricanes Irma in 2017, Ian in 2022 and Milton in 2024 on trees already weakened from years of citrus greening disease "has led Alico to conclude that growing citrus is no longer economically viable for us in Florida," said John Kiernan, Alico's president and CEO. More than 4,000 acres of land are burning in Southern California from three wildfires, forcing tens of thousands of people to evacuate. "This time of year traditionally has not been fire season, but now we disabuse any notion that there is a season," California Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a video posted to X. "It's year-round in the state of California." More than 200,000 customers in Los Angeles and Ventura counties were without power early Wednesday morning, according to power outage. us. Firefighting authorities will typically turn off power lines, as a downed line can cause sparks that escalate to flames.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/major-florida-grower-end-citrus-16483044	2025/01/08	
What to know about the wildfires spreading through Southern California	Environment- wildfires		https://www.npr.org/2025/01/08/nx-s1-52523370/california-wildfires-los-a	2025/01/08	
The polar vortex brings its bitter cold to the Southern US	Environment- Winter weather	The plunging polar vortex brought subfreezing temperatures Tuesday to some of the southernmost points of the U.S., threatening to dump snow on parts of Texas and Oklahoma in coming days and contributing to a power outage in Virginia's capital that made the water unsafe to drink. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, is urging the Department of Justice (DOJ) to rescind a number of internal opinions dealing with a president's military powers while asking for clarification on domestic use of America's forces. "I request that the Department of Justice publicly release opinions and manuals pertaining to the domestic use of the U.S. military. For decades, OLC has issued guidance on the circumstances in which the President may deploy the military within the United States, as well as what servicemembers may do when so deployed," he wrote, noting that some of those documents have not been made public. "The American people have a right to know how the Executive Branch interprets the President's constitutional and statutory authority to use the military domestically. The need for transparency regarding these legal interpretations is particularly urgent today given the risk of domestic military deployment to suppress protests or carry out mass deportations." The Jan. 20 swearing-in caps a two-week stretch of national special security events — occasions of the highest national significance that get a boost in federal funding and are led by the U.S. Secret Service. The others include the electoral count on Monday and former President Jimmy Carter's state funeral on Thursday. There's also a major rally planned for President-elect Donald Trump on Jan. 19 at Capital One Arena. In an update to its hate speech policy on Tuesday, spotted first by The Independent, the apps' parent company Meta deleted numerous clauses banning specific derogatory statements about protected groups, while adding detailed exceptions for anti-trans speech. Gone is the clause saying you cannot compare women to "household objects or property." Also removed is a prohibition on claiming that there is "no such thing" as a trans or gay person. Previously you could not say that a protected group spreads or is responsible for Covid-19, but the new changes removed that line, which seems to allow for anti-Chinese rhetoric. Added in to the policy are new clauses apparently designed to explicitly allow common anti-trans arguments, such as advocating for trans people to be banned from public bathrooms, school sports, or certain jobs.	https://apnews.com/article/wind-chills-snow-texas-oklahoma-arkansas-	2025/01/08	
Durbin asks DOJ to clarify scope of president's military power ahead of Trump inauguration	Government- DOJ		https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/5072742-durbin-justice-department	2025/01/08	
Trump's inauguration coincides with an unprecedented string of high-stakes security events in DC	Government- security		https://apnews.com/article/trump-inauguration-security-a3df8d878f2c	2025/01/08	
Facebook lifts restrictions on calling women 'property' and transgender people 'freaks'	Hatred	"We do allow allegations of mental illness or abnormality when based on gender or sexual orientation," reads one exception. The same section previously said that users couldn't call protected groups "freaks" or "abnormal." Emergency room visits with influenza are now "very high" nationwide, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday, in this week's update on the winter respiratory virus season. Some of the highest levels of influenza are now in Western states, several of which have already topped the peaks recorded during the worst of last winter's flu season. In Oregon, the CDC's data show 8.4% of emergency room visits involved flu at the end of December. This is now more than three times higher than the peak reached last season. COVID-19, flu, RSV and walking pneumonia continue to spread across the state, Weber said, but some viruses are circulating faster than others. There has also been an uptick in cases of norovirus (or "winter vomiting disease"), since it's more common in the winter, Weber said.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/facebook-lifts-restrictions-calling-women-	2025/01/08	
Flu emergency room visits now "very high" nationwide, CDC says	Health- Flu		https://www.cbsnews.com/news/influenza-flu-season-emergency-room-	2025/01/08	
A 'quad-demic' hit NC this winter, and now a 5th virus is spreading. How to stay safe	Health- winter ick	Respiratory season is here, says Dr. Brendan Jackson, an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "It is getting to be in full swing now with a lot of people getting sick, a lot of people missing work, missing school, just feeling lousy in general." ... The flu, in particular, is at high or very high levels all around the country, according to the CDC. "We're buried with influenza. Things are very, very busy and intense," says Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious disease researcher at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. "The emergency room is full of people who are coughing and sneezing. We've had people waiting on gurneys — those stretchers — waiting for admission. We are really full."	https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/state/north-carolina/article298	2025/01/08	
Winter illnesses return with a vengeance	Health- winter ick		https://www.npr.org/sections/shotz-health-news/2025/01/08/nx-s1-5249	2025/01/08	

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France warns Donald Trump against threatening EU 'sovereign borders'	International Relations	France has warned Donald Trump against threatening the "sovereign borders" of the European Union after the US president-elect refused to rule out military action to take control of Greenland, an autonomous territory of EU member Denmark.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/08/france-warns-trump	2025/01/08	
Trump refuses to rule out use of military force to take control of Greenland and the Panama Canal	International Relations	"I'm not going to commit to that," Trump said, when asked if he would rule out the use of the military. "It might be that you'll have to do something. The Panama Canal is vital to our country." He added, "We need Greenland for national security purposes."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-vows-undo-biden-ban-171439352	2025/01/08	
Donald Trump Jr. arrives in Greenland with a message from his dad: 'We're going to treat you well'	International Relations	President-elect Donald Trump told residents of Greenland that "we're going to treat you well" as his oldest son visited the mineral-rich Danish territory that's home to a large U.S. military base, heightening speculation that the incoming U.S. administration could seek to acquire it.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/donald-trump-jr-arrives-greenland-132116	2025/01/08	
'Stop the Steal' in South Korea? Why MAGA-like hats and slogans are part of President Yoon's impeachment drama	International-South Korea	In a statement, Greenland's government said Donald Trump Jr.'s visit was taking place "as a private individual" and not as an official visit, and Greenlandic representatives would not meet with him. Crowds of people wrapped up against the latter January cold clutch signs emblazoned with the slogan "Stop the Steal," wave US flags, and don red MAGA-like hats. But this scene is 11,000 kilometers (7,000 miles) away from Washington, DC, in the South Korean capital Seoul, where throngs of die-hard conservative supporters of the suspended President Yoon Suk Yeol have gathered outside his home to protect the embattled leader from arrest. Yoon successfully resisted an attempt to detain him on Friday after an hours-long standoff with authorities over his dramatic but short-lived declaration of martial law in December that plunged the country into political chaos.	https://www.cnn.com/2025/01/07/asia/south-korea-stop-the-steal-yoon	2025/01/08	
Senate GOP pushes for Gabbard hearing before inauguration, but Democrats resist setting date for next week	Political cesspool	Senate Republicans are pushing to hold a confirmation hearing for Tulsi Gabbard before President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration, but Democrats are resisting setting a date for next week as the Intelligence Committee has not yet received key paperwork on the nomination, including an FBI background check, according to two sources familiar with the matter.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/senate-gop-pushes-gabbard-hearing-224	2025/01/08	
The Incredible, World-Altering 'Black Swan' Events That Could Upend Life in 2025	Predictions	So we asked an array of thinkers — futurists, scientists, foreign policy analysts and others — to lay out some of the possible "Black Swan" events that could await us in the new year. What are the unpredictable, unlikely episodes that aren't yet on the radar but would completely upend American life as we know it?	https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2025/01/03/15-unpredictable-	2025/01/08	
Zuckerberg and Meta say good riddance to fact-checking	Technology-Social media	The founders of social media giants like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok didn't expect to end up in what the industry came to call the "content moderation" business — and what many critics, and now Zuckerberg himself, denounce as "censorship." Policing online speech costs a fortune to do right. It's impossible to make everyone happy. You're bound to make mistakes. And users' wishes keep changing. The whole effort is a distraction from what's always been Facebook/Meta's top priority — boosting engagement to sell more ads.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/08/zuckerberg-meta-content-moderatio	2025/01/08	
Trump claims he'll rename the Gulf of Mexico to 'Gulf of America'	Trump Bulshit	Along with the company's other new content policies, Meta has now updated its Community Guidelines on "hateful conduct" specifically to allow "allegations of mental illness or abnormality when based on gender or sexual orientation." A variety of other changes in its rules appear to significantly loosen the knot around what many users will consider hate speech.	https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-claims-he'll-rename-gulf-mexico-	2025/01/08	
Greenland, oil and 'all hell' in the Middle East: Takeaways from Trump's Mar-a-Lago press conference	Trump Bulshit	President-elect Donald Trump declared in a proposal out of left field on Tuesday that his administration will rename the Gulf of Mexico the "Gulf of America" in his latest attack on Mexico. "We're going to change because we do most of the work there and it's ours," Trump said. "It's appropriate, and Mexico has to stop allowing millions of people to pour into our country." Trump said in a wide-ranging news conference.	https://www.politico.com/news/2025/01/07/trump-press-conference-gre	2025/01/08	
Trump suggests he could use military force to acquire Panama Canal and Greenland and 'economic force' to annex Canada	Trump Bulshit	Trump slammed an action President Joe Biden took Monday that banned offshore drilling across 625 million acres of U.S. ocean, promising to "reverse it immediately" and instead "drill, baby, drill" — the official slogan of his platform's energy policy. He said energy costs will be brought down "to a very low level," which he said would decrease costs across the board.	https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trump-suggests-use-m	2025/01/08	
Donald Trump May Try to 'Run the Nation from Mar-a-Lago': 'He Is Blissfully Happy in Palm Beach' (Exclusive Source)	Trump Bulshit	Trump really wants the Panama Canal. And Greenland. And Canada.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/donald-trump-may-try-run-172545068.htm	2025/01/08	
Trump's appointments signal which Project 2025 goals he might advance first	Trump Bulshit	Trump again bashed the Department of Justice, which he has contended for years is part of a "deep state" unfairly targeting him through "lawfare." He called Jack Smith, the special counsel who had conducted two investigations into Trump, "a deranged individual" and a "nutjob" who will "execute everybody."	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/08/trump-project-2025	2025/01/08	
The normalizers are exuding calm — but Trump 2.0 is anything but normal	Trump Bulshit	Trump promised that if the Israeli hostages being held by Hamas are not returned by the time he retakes the Oval Office, "all hell will break loose in the Middle East."	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/07/trump-extremism-th	2025/01/08	
Trump's transition team wanted to bring on 2,000 staff. They're falling short as insiders spar over loyalty tests	Trump Bulshit	"It will not be good for Hamas, and it will not be good, frankly, for anyone," Trump said.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/donald	2025/01/08	
Sen. Warren presses Hegseth to answer questions about his past actions and statements	Trump Cesspool	... Trump ramped up his attacks on an old foe — windmills — saying he would "try and have a policy where no windmills are being built."	https://apnews.com/article/hegseth-warren-pentagon-trump-5f743788a	2025/01/08	
Mark Zuckerberg's Meta is moving moderators from California to Texas to combat concerns about bias and censorship	Zuck sucks	There is no doubt the resistance to Donald Trump feels muted second time around. The word "fascist" has disappeared from political discourse as quickly as it appeared. The meeker tone gives the impression that Trump 2.0 will be more conventional, moderate and palatable than the first version.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/mark-zuckerbergs-meta-moving-moderate	2025/01/08	
Extremism in US military 'is sleeping danger' says author of Pentagon report	Cesspool-Military	In fact the opposite is true. There is an epic disconnect between this normalisation and the absurdly abnormal future facing America and the world. The 78-year-old's shambolic hour-long press conference at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida on Tuesday suggests we ain't seen notin' yet.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/09/military-extremism-t	2025/01/09	
Exclusive: Young Americans sympathize more with CEO shooting suspect than victim	Eat the rich	Suddenly the "America first" president who vowed peace through strength is sounding more like warmonger predecessors such as George W Bush. Such expansionism is music to the ears of Russian leader Vladimir Putin, whose invasion of Ukraine is based on the logic that borders are no longer fixed and territory belongs to the strongest.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/09/luigi-mangione-approval-poll-gen-z	2025/01/09	
Investors get pickier with AI-fueled health deals	Economy-Healthcare	There is another possible motive. Trump, a former reality TV star who craves attention and is obsessed with ratings, may be feeling the pressure of second album syndrome. He knows the resistance is dampened, cable news ratings are down and many are feeling Trump fatigue with little appetite for a sequel.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/09/investors-get-pickier-with-ai-fueled-h	2025/01/09	
UnitedHealth shareholders demand review of policies that 'delayed or denied' health care access	Economy-Healthcare	President-elect Donald Trump's transition team is falling short of its goal to have 2,000 political appointees on board by Inauguration Day, a new report reveals.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/unitedhealth-shareholders-demand-review	2025/01/09	

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		Beyond the immediate danger posed by wildfires spreading through Los Angeles County is the smoke that poses a worrisome threat to the health of millions in the area. "Wildfires don't just burn what's wild. [they] also burn manmade structures," Afif El-Hasan, a pediatric asthma doctor in Orange County, California and a spokesperson for the American Lung Association, told Axios. "Not only does that give off ash and all these particles, but you also have chemicals being given off." What else: Health clinics around the county have been announcing closures. Kaiser Permanente closed nine outpatient clinics and UCLA Health announced the closure of at least a dozen outpatient clinics including its Alhambra Cancer Care on Wednesday.			
L.A. infernos pose added health dangers	Environment-Health	Children are suffering and dying from diseases that emerging scientific research has linked to chemical exposures, findings that require urgent retooling of laws around the world, according to a new paper published on Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM). The paper points to data showing global inventories of roughly 350,000 synthetic chemicals, chemical mixtures and plastics, most of which are derived from fossil fuels. Production has expanded 50-fold since 1950, and is currently increasing by about 3% a year – projected to triple by 2050, the paper states.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/09/la-wildfire-smoke-poses-health-dang	2025/01/09	
Health experts rally for 'call to arms' to protect children from toxic chemicals	Environment-Health	Rapidly spreading wildfires tearing through Los Angeles County into Thursday have destroyed roughly 2,000 structures and forced tens of thousands of people to evacuate their homes. Two of the biggest blazes remained zero percent contained in dry conditions amid high winds that were beginning to weaken over Wednesday evening, though fresh spot fires ignited and a new blaze in the Hollywood Hills prompted more mandatory evacuation orders. The two largest wildfires, the Palisades and Eaton fires, are each estimated to have razed at least 1,000 structures each. If confirmed, these would rank among the most destructive wildfires in L.A. history, per Cal Fire. At least five people died in the Eaton Fire, in northeast L.A. County, which has destroyed an estimated 1,000 structures, officials said at a Wednesday evening briefing. L.A. County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone said at a Wednesday briefing there were a "high number of significant injuries to residents who did not evacuate" from the Palisades Fire.	https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/jan/08/health-experts-childre	2025/01/09	
Fires ravage L.A. area, 5 deaths reported and tens of thousands evacuated	Environment-wildfires	Hydrants ran dry overnight Tuesday in Pacific Palisades, California, because of the enormous demand for water to battle the destructive wildfire there and low water pressure. "We pushed the system to the extreme," she said during a Wednesday news conference. "Four times the normal demand was seen for 15 hours straight."	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/08/palisades-fire-los-angeles-residents	2025/01/09	
Fire hydrants ran dry in Pacific Palisades as a major wildfire raged	Environment-wildfires	Things shut down for multiple days if there's any kind of ice on the road, he said. "It becomes more of a hazard because we're just not built for that kind of stuff." "It's all about layers," Beattie said. You're safest at home during a storm, said Vanessa Palange, community outreach coordinator for New Hampshire's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Stock up on extra blankets, warm clothes, water and food — especially things that aren't perishable and don't require heating up. If you're getting cans, make sure you have a manual can opener. It's good to have enough food on hand for about three days, Palange said. If you lose heat at home, you can see if there are any warming centers open in your community. Calling 2-1-1 is free and can connect you to services throughout most of the country. Check on your neighbors and friends, too. If you're using a generator, make sure you're only running it outdoors and away from doors, windows and vents. That helps protect against carbon monoxide poisoning. It doesn't take much snow to make a road slick, he said, and ice can be even more dangerous. Drivers in states that get a lot of snow often have winter tires or snow chains, which add extra traction. Without those, driving can be especially hazardous. If you have to drive, stay on main roads and try to travel when it's light out. Remember that roads will be slippery. It will take more time to slow down and stop. So it's good to leave extra room between you and other vehicles. ...	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/08/q-s1-41690/california-wildfire-water-hyd	2025/01/09	
A major winter storm will bring snow to the South. Here are tips from winter experts	Environment-Winter weather	Elon Musk has lashed out at California fire officials, baselessly accusing them of putting DEI measures over "saving lives and homes," as MAGA supporters are spreading conspiracy theories on social media about the catastrophic wildfires ripping through Los Angeles County. Musk joined President-elect Donald Trump in placing blame that didn't include climate change for the fires that have so far spread to more than 27,000 acres across Southern California. But it is not only antisemitic, as smears around Soros often are. In Musk's particular case, the smears can be viewed as projection. The dark myth of Soros represents what Musk, in his newly political life, seems to aspire to: an all-seeing, all-knowing power and influence to shape governments to his will and his interests because of his bottomless pockets. Musk's political donations began to lean Republican in 2017, and, since then—and particularly over the past four years—he has pursued a level of power and influence on American government and society at the highest levels and scale. After buying Twitter, he donated a quarter of a billion dollars to help elect Trump and other Republican candidates. Since succeeding, he has strong-armed members of Congress, inserted himself almost literally at Trump's right hand, and earned a de facto administration position co-leading the "Department of Government Efficiency." Now he's setting his sights globally, too. He's turning himself into a mirror image of what he has accused Soros of being all these years, pursuing the very power that he has claimed Soros has.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/09/tx-s1-5251474/winter-snow-tips	2025/01/09	
Elon Musk uses wildfires to attack California's DEI practices — as MAGA faithful spread wild conspiracies	Fuck that guy	But it is not only antisemitic, as smears around Soros often are. In Musk's particular case, the smears can be viewed as projection. The dark myth of Soros represents what Musk, in his newly political life, seems to aspire to: an all-seeing, all-knowing power and influence to shape governments to his will and his interests because of his bottomless pockets. Musk's political donations began to lean Republican in 2017, and, since then—and particularly over the past four years—he has pursued a level of power and influence on American government and society at the highest levels and scale. After buying Twitter, he donated a quarter of a billion dollars to help elect Trump and other Republican candidates. Since succeeding, he has strong-armed members of Congress, inserted himself almost literally at Trump's right hand, and earned a de facto administration position co-leading the "Department of Government Efficiency." Now he's setting his sights globally, too. He's turning himself into a mirror image of what he has accused Soros of being all these years, pursuing the very power that he has claimed Soros has.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/elon-musk-uses-wildfires-attack-2202338	2025/01/09	
Elon Musk Is Making One of His Own Conspiracy Theories a Reality	Fuck that guy	To test this research outside the lab, NPR teamed up with Columbia researchers to conduct a clinical trial. In fall of 2023, over 20,000 participants tried to add movement breaks to their days. Those who managed to succeed reported an average of 25% less fatigue. Even with the interruptions, participants felt they were more productive and more focused at work. Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum clapped back at President-elect Trump on Wednesday and said parts of the U.S. should be called "América Mexicana," in response to Trump's proposal to rename the Gulf of Mexico the "Gulf of America" at a press conference on Tuesday. During a press conference Wednesday, Sheinbaum stood in front of a 1607 map showing the territory of northern Mexico and part of the present-day United States mixed together. Sheinbaum said without prompting from reporters that the joint region that used to belong to Mexico should be called "América Mexicana," or "Mexican America." "Why don't we call it 'Mexican America'?" It sounds nice, right? Since 1607, the Constitution of Apiztlan was of Mexican America. So, let's do it that way. A white powder in a letter that hospitalized an aide to Belgium's prime minister, Alexander De Croo, has been identified as strychnine, a poison that can be fatal. But Wasserman didn't get much pity online. Instead, he was swiftly mocked for asking for special treatment while thousands of Californians had no choice but to leave their homes behind — especially because, netizens were quick to point, a mere three months ago, Wasserman begged president-elect Donald Trump to cut taxes. "Homeboy went from 'Real estate ballers don't pay taxes' to 'will pay anything for private firefighters' real quick," one user wrote in a Threads post.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/elon-musk-living-dark-george-104500182	2025/01/09	
How to get more movement into your screen-filled life. No gym required.	Health-Movement	This "demographic cliff" has been predicted ever since Americans started having fewer babies at the advent of the Great Recession around the end of 2007 — a falling birth rate that has not recovered since, except for a slight blip after the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Demographers say it will finally arrive nationwide in the fall of this year. That's when recruiting offices will begin to confront the long-anticipated drop-off in the number of applicants from among the next class of high school seniors. But the downturn isn't just a problem for universities and colleges. It's a looming crisis for the economy, with fewer graduates eventually coming through the pipeline to fill jobs that require college educations, even as international rivals increase the proportions of their populations with degrees. The New Orleans truck attacker built two bombs using what investigators believe was an explosive so powerful that they could have sprayed shrapnel hundreds of yards and potentially killed or wounded hundreds of people.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/08/q-s1-41556/how-to-get-more-movement	2025/01/09	
Mexican president says U.S. should be called 'América Mexicana' in Trump clapback	International Relations	But Wasserman didn't get much pity online. Instead, he was swiftly mocked for asking for special treatment while thousands of Californians had no choice but to leave their homes behind — especially because, netizens were quick to point, a mere three months ago, Wasserman begged president-elect Donald Trump to cut taxes. "Homeboy went from 'Real estate ballers don't pay taxes' to 'will pay anything for private firefighters' real quick," one user wrote in a Threads post.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/08/mexican-president-responds-trump-	2025/01/09	
White powder sent to Belgian PM's office identified as poison strychnine	International-Belgium	But Wasserman didn't get much pity online. Instead, he was swiftly mocked for asking for special treatment while thousands of Californians had no choice but to leave their homes behind — especially because, netizens were quick to point, a mere three months ago, Wasserman begged president-elect Donald Trump to cut taxes. "Homeboy went from 'Real estate ballers don't pay taxes' to 'will pay anything for private firefighters' real quick," one user wrote in a Threads post.	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/09/white-powder-sent-to-b	2025/01/09	
Cybertruck Owner Who Decried Taxes Mocked for Begging for Help as California Wildfire Threatens His Property	Karma	This "demographic cliff" has been predicted ever since Americans started having fewer babies at the advent of the Great Recession around the end of 2007 — a falling birth rate that has not recovered since, except for a slight blip after the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Demographers say it will finally arrive nationwide in the fall of this year. That's when recruiting offices will begin to confront the long-anticipated drop-off in the number of applicants from among the next class of high school seniors. But the downturn isn't just a problem for universities and colleges. It's a looming crisis for the economy, with fewer graduates eventually coming through the pipeline to fill jobs that require college educations, even as international rivals increase the proportions of their populations with degrees. The New Orleans truck attacker built two bombs using what investigators believe was an explosive so powerful that they could have sprayed shrapnel hundreds of yards and potentially killed or wounded hundreds of people.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/cybertruck-owner-decried-taxes-mocked-	2025/01/09	
A looming 'demographic cliff': Fewer college students and ultimately fewer graduates	Population	But the downturn isn't just a problem for universities and colleges. It's a looming crisis for the economy, with fewer graduates eventually coming through the pipeline to fill jobs that require college educations, even as international rivals increase the proportions of their populations with degrees. The New Orleans truck attacker built two bombs using what investigators believe was an explosive so powerful that they could have sprayed shrapnel hundreds of yards and potentially killed or wounded hundreds of people.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/08/tx-s1-5246200/demographic-cliff-fewer	2025/01/09	
New Orleans attacker's bombs were designed to cause 'absolute carnage'	Terrorism-NOLA	It's rare, if not unprecedented, for a newly elected leader to have so many world leaders and CEOs shift their policies or posture so blatantly during the transition to curry favor with a new president. Major tech CEOs traveled to meet Trump in person and cut \$1 million checks to his inauguration. Meta shifted top personnel and its social media policing policies to match Trump's interests. With the news media more fractured and less trusted than ever, outlets that once covered Trump with skepticism — and even disdain — have made surprise overtures to the president-elect. Senators were given previews of some of what they were told would be 100 executive orders, two sources who were in the room told Axios. ... One big border plan: Reinstating Title 42, according to multiple sources. More aggressively using a part of the Immigration and Nationality Act — 287(g) — which allows some state and local law enforcement to assist in some of the duties of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Building the border wall, constructing soft-sided facilities to hold migrants and implementing other asylum restrictions.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/orleans-attacker-ried-high-explosive-190	2025/01/09	
Behind the Curtain: Trump's ever-expansive power	Trump Bulshit	More aggressively using a part of the Immigration and Nationality Act — 287(g) — which allows some state and local law enforcement to assist in some of the duties of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Building the border wall, constructing soft-sided facilities to hold migrants and implementing other asylum restrictions.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/09/trump-gop-power-expansion-tech-co	2025/01/09	
Scoop: Trump's 100 executive orders	Trump Bulshit	Tesla has pocketed \$11 billion from the sale of regulatory credits to rival automakers needing help to hit tough emissions targets — easy money that could dry up if President-elect Trump rolls back Biden-era regulations. ... In the nine months through September 2024, 43% of Tesla's \$4.8 billion in net income came from selling regulatory credits to other carmakers. Since 2012, 34% of Tesla's total \$32 billion in profits have come from such credit sales.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/09/trump-immigration-executive-orders	2025/01/09	
Tesla's easy money from clean car credits at risk under Trump	Trump Bulshit	Tesla has pocketed \$11 billion from the sale of regulatory credits to rival automakers needing help to hit tough emissions targets — easy money that could dry up if President-elect Trump rolls back Biden-era regulations. ... In the nine months through September 2024, 43% of Tesla's \$4.8 billion in net income came from selling regulatory credits to other carmakers. Since 2012, 34% of Tesla's total \$32 billion in profits have come from such credit sales.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/09/tesla-clean-credits-trump	2025/01/09	

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Alito spoke with Trump hours before court filing on hush-money sentencing	Trump Bulshit	Justice Samuel Alito spoke with President-elect Trump the day before the Republican leader's lawyers asked the Supreme Court to halt Friday's sentencing in his New York hush money case, the judge confirmed Wednesday. It's not unusual for justices to give job recommendations for former clerks, but the timing of the call, hours before the filing of an appeal against the conviction of what would be the first-ever criminal sentencing of a living president, drew criticism from advocates who've campaigned for more transparency in courts and raised ethics concerns.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/09/justice-alito-trump-call	2025/01/09	
Gold-plated watches and electoral map sneakers: Trump's newest merchandise raises conflict of interest questions	Trump Bulshit	The post-election sales pitches illustrate just how closely Trump's personal business interests are entwined with his politics. But less than two weeks from taking the oath of office, the Republican billionaire and the Trump Organization have not offered details to the public on how precisely they intend to wall off those varied interests — which range from hotels, golf clubs and licensing deals to a new cryptocurrency venture — from his job as president. So far, Trump has transferred his shares in Truth Social's parent company into a longstanding trust of which he is the sole beneficiary, according to recent filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. His oldest son, Donald Trump Jr., is the trustee. Ethics experts say those steps fall well short of the blind trusts and divestitures from private business interests that other presidents have used to avoid ethical conflicts with their job. And there are signs that the Trump Organization will erect fewer limits on its activity than it did during Trump's first four years in the White House. His son, Eric Trump — who oversees the company day-to-day — has said the company will continue to pursue business opportunities overseas, dropping a self-imposed prohibition on foreign deals that the company said was in place during the first term.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/questions-loom-conflicts-interest-second-20250109	2025/01/09	
Trump faces growing threat of 'gray zone' warfare	Trump Bulshit	President-elect Trump has made ambitious promises to end Russia's war in Ukraine and face down China, but he's also contending with a growing threat of "gray zone" attacks from foreign adversaries, from drone surveillance to acts of sabotage in the air, sea and on land. Donald Trump is mulling over the idea to declare a national economic emergency to impose widespread tariffs. CNN reports, as the president-elect escalates threats to seize the Panama Canal, acquire Greenland and force Canada into becoming a US state. The emergency powers move would allow Trump to implement broad tariff measures against both allies and adversaries through the International Economic Emergency Powers Act, according to four sources familiar with the discussions.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-faces-growing-threat-gray-1100004-20250109	2025/01/09	
Trump considers declaring national economic emergency to impose tariffs	Trump Bulshit	The emergency powers would give Trump significant latitude in constructing a new tariff programme without having to demonstrate traditional national security justifications, the sources told CNN. "Nothing is off the table," one source familiar with the matter told the network, confirming that robust discussions about declaring a national emergency have taken place. Hawaii Gov. Josh Green (D) on Wednesday warned senators not to confirm Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as the next health and human services secretary, sharing a dark story about Kennedy fueling an anti-vaccine misinformation campaign that Green said led to dozens of children dying in Samoa amid a measles outbreak. "A celebrity with no public health experience named Robert F. Kennedy Jr. went to Samoa, met with the prime minister, met with the secretary of health," said Green. "He discouraged them from vaccinating. And what happens when you discourage individuals from vaccinating? When they're afraid, a lot of them refuse to get vaccinated." As Kennedy pushed his anti-vaccination campaign — which Green has referred to as disinformation — the inoculation rate plummeted to 31% and the measles virus spread. Samoan leaders asked the Hawaii governor for help, so he went to their island with dozens of health care providers to help vaccinate as many people as possible. By this time, there were approximately 5,000 confirmed cases of measles, Green said, and the outbreak would lead to more than 80 deaths, most of them among children.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/08/trump-tariffs-national-emergency	2025/01/09	
Hawaii Gov. RFK Jr.'s Anti-Vax Misinformation Left Dozens Of Kids Dead In Samoa	Trump Cesspool	"The whole town is showing up, I think, at the airport," Gor said in a teaser clip of Art of the Surge, an Apple TV docuseries on Donald Trump's resurgence and presidential victory. A video taken inside the airport showed 20 or so Greenlanders waiting at the terminal for the U.S. president's eldest son. By the time Trump Jr. and his team departed from the terminal, it appeared more locals had joined the welcome crowd, but it had remained relatively reserved. Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.) will introduce a bill that would authorize the president to purchase the Panama Canal and put it under U.S. control, an acquisition that President-elect Trump has been pushing over the last several weeks. The bill would authorize the president, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to "initiate and conduct negotiations with appropriate counterparts of the Government of the Republic of Panama to reacquire the Panama Canal" according to draft text shared with The Hill.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/hawaii-gov-rfk-jr-anti-223319777.html	2025/01/09	
Don Jr. was told the 'whole town' would show up for his Greenland arrival, it appears they did not	Trump Cesspool	Donald Trump Jr. wasted no time promoting his father's plans to acquire Greenland. After visiting the country on Tuesday, he said the quiet part out loud, noting that the Danish territory has priceless "rare minerals" in the ground. Trump Jr. argued during a Newsmax interview that Denmark has prevented the Arctic island "from utilizing the great natural resources that they have, whether that's coal, whether that's uranium, whether that's other rare minerals, whether that's gold or diamonds."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/don-jr-told-whole-town-180828529.html	2025/01/09	
House Republican bill would pave way for Trump to acquire Panama Canal for US	Trump Cesspool	Sen. Mark Warner (Va.), the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said that his meeting with former Rep. Tuli Gabbard (Hawaii) has left him with more questions as she looks to win confirmation in the coming weeks to lead the U.S. intelligence community. Mark Zuckerberg has "heard the message" from Donald Trump on restricting online content, and his Meta platforms will intervene "less and less" on users during the president-elect's administration, according to the whistleblower Frances Haugen. Michael McConnell, the director of the constitutional law center at Stanford law school, said that after Meta's decision to scrap some factcheckers and loosen its "hateful conduct" policies, the oversight board was the only institution with the authority to "review high-level, controversial content moderation decisions and make impactful recommendations that enhance the user experience for billions worldwide, promote free speech, and protect human rights".	https://www.yahoo.com/news/house-republican-bill-pave-way-2015028-20250109	2025/01/09	
Donald Trump Jr. Says The Quiet Part Out Loud During On-Air Pitch To Acquire Greenland	Trump Cesspool	The American-Filipino journalist said Mark Zuckerberg's move to relax content moderation on the Facebook and Instagram platforms would lead to a "world without facts" and that was "a world that's right for a dictator".	https://www.yahoo.com/news/donald-trump-jr-says-quiet-161209174.html	2025/01/09	
Warner on Gabbard meeting: 'I had questions going in, I have questions coming out'	Trump Cesspool	Hundreds of Californian prisoners have been deployed to help battle the fires raging across the Los Angeles area, with some working 24-hour shifts for as little as \$26.90, or just over \$1 an hour. California, which is grappling with longer and more destructive fire seasons amid the climate crisis, has long relied on incarcerated people for its response. In fact, the CDCR crews have, at times, accounted for as much as 30% of the state's wildfire force. According to the CDCR, fire crew members earn between \$5.80 and \$10.24 a day, depending on their skill level, with an additional \$1 per hour for active emergency assignments. In addition to pay, fire crews helping out during emergencies like this receive "time credits" on a two-for-one basis, meaning that for each day they serve on the crew, they receive two additional days off their sentence.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/warner-gabbard-meeting-had-questions-20250109	2025/01/09	
Meta has 'heard the message' from Trump, says whistleblower Frances Haugen	Zuck sucks	A man who fired a gun inside a restaurant in the nation's capital after a fake online conspiracy theory called "Pizzagate" motivated him to do so nearly a decade ago was shot and killed by North Carolina police during a weekend traffic stop. A series of powerful wildfires has turned large swaths of Los Angeles into smoldering ruins. As first responders attempt to control the blazes, heavy winds are quite literally fanning the flames — to the point that the fires have now been ravaging the city for days. There is a clear link between climate change and the severity of recent wildfires. Climate-denying conservatives are instead blaming the devastation on California's "woke" politics.	https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/jan/09/meta-has-heard-the-message-from-trump	2025/01/09	
Meta is ushering in a 'world without facts', says Nobel peace prize winner	Zuck sucks	President-elect Trump understands the U.S. auto industry better now than he did during his first term, says Ford chairman Bill Ford, who's hopeful that Tesla CEO Elon Musk will use his close relationship with Trump to advocate for all automakers. Ford also said he wasn't too worried that Musk will use his close relationship with Trump to get an advantage over Tesla's rivals. High interest rates and soaring prices are killing Americans' faith in the U.S. housing market. Just 21% of U.S. adults say now is a good time to buy a house, according to a new poll from Gallup. That's the lowest homebuyer sentiment has ever been in data going back to 1978, when the organization first asked Americans the question. It's also the second year in a row that sentiment has hit a new low — last year, just 30% of homebuyers thought the housing market was good for buyers. The Los Angeles wildfires are on track to be among the costliest in US history, with losses already expected to exceed \$135bn (£109.7bn).	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/08/facebook-end-factcheck	2025/01/09	
Hundreds of California prisoners are fighting the LA fires, with some earning little more than \$1 an hour	ACAB	Last year was Earth's warmest on record, eclipsing 2023's record and for the first time exceeding the Paris target of 1.5°C above preindustrial levels, the Copernicus Climate Change Service announced Thursday. While climate scientists don't put too much stock into an individual year's record, the long-term trend is toward more rapid warming, and it is not entirely clear why 2024 was so hot — and what it portends.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/hundreds-california-prisoners-fighting-la-fires-20250110	2025/01/10	
Pizzagate gunman killed by police in North Carolina, authorities say	cesspool- ACAB	It's estimated the wildfire that erupted on Tuesday in Pacific Palisades has burned 5,316 structures across 19,978 acres at 6% containment in the affluent L.A. area between Malibu and Santa Monica as of late Thursday. "The main reason is increasing temperatures & atmospheric 'thirstiness,'" but increased precipitation "whiplash"/seasonal shifts is also an emerging factor," he added, referring to when there are rapid swings between intensely wet and dangerously dry weather. Swin said during a livestream he expects SoCal's "urban freestrom" will likely become "the costliest wildfire disaster in California, if not national history, along with a number of other superlatives."	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/10/g-1-42040/pizzagate-gunman-killed-police	2025/01/10	
Right-Wingers Are Blaming the L.A. Fires on Diversity	Cesspool-Conspiracy	The Kenneth Fire quickly spread into Ventura County after starting around 3:30pm in L.A., prompting the NFL to move the L.A. Rams' wild-card playoff game against the Minnesota Vikings to Arizona. A Ventura County fire official told KNBC Thursday evening, "Forward progress of the fire has been stopped and we've contained it to only 960 acres."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/wingers-blaming-l-fires-diversity-1618432-20250110	2025/01/10	
Trump and Musk want to help the auto industry, Ford chairman says	Economy- Auto industry	But the extreme weather threat is far from over. Wind gusts of up to 55 mph were forecast into Friday, with more gusty north-to-northeast winds expected to develop over the weekend.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/10/trump-musk-ford	2025/01/10	
Americans have had a sudden change of heart about buying a house, and only 1 in 5 think it's a good idea	Economy- Housing	The Kenneth Fire quickly spread into Ventura County after starting around 3:30pm in L.A., prompting the NFL to move the L.A. Rams' wild-card playoff game against the Minnesota Vikings to Arizona. A Ventura County fire official told KNBC Thursday evening, "Forward progress of the fire has been stopped and we've contained it to only 960 acres."	https://finance.yahoo.com/news/americans-had-sudden-change-heart-20250110	2025/01/10	
LA wildfire damages set to cost record \$135bn	Economy- Wildfires	But the extreme weather threat is far from over. Wind gusts of up to 55 mph were forecast into Friday, with more gusty north-to-northeast winds expected to develop over the weekend.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/la-wildfires-among-costliest-us-18355089-20250110	2025/01/10	
2024 was Earth's hottest year on record, exceeding Paris target	Environment- Global warming	The Kenneth Fire quickly spread into Ventura County after starting around 3:30pm in L.A., prompting the NFL to move the L.A. Rams' wild-card playoff game against the Minnesota Vikings to Arizona. A Ventura County fire official told KNBC Thursday evening, "Forward progress of the fire has been stopped and we've contained it to only 960 acres."	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/10/2024-earths-hottest-year-above-paris	2025/01/10	
L.A. County fires among most destructive fires ever recorded in California	Environment- wildfires	But the extreme weather threat is far from over. Wind gusts of up to 55 mph were forecast into Friday, with more gusty north-to-northeast winds expected to develop over the weekend.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/10/la-fires-destructive-california-record-20250110	2025/01/10	
Kenneth Fire threatens 2 SoCal counties, forces NFL to move Vikings-Rams game	Environment- wildfires	The Kenneth Fire quickly spread into Ventura County after starting around 3:30pm in L.A., prompting the NFL to move the L.A. Rams' wild-card playoff game against the Minnesota Vikings to Arizona. A Ventura County fire official told KNBC Thursday evening, "Forward progress of the fire has been stopped and we've contained it to only 960 acres."	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/10/kenneth-fire-la-evacuations-rfi-vikins	2025/01/10	

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No reprieve for California inferno, with high winds continuing into next week	Environment-wildfires	As wildfires incited by high winds and record dry conditions ravage Los Angeles County, the National Weather Service is warning of continued high-risk weather to come both this week and next. Winds will once again pick up Thursday evening into Friday morning across the Los Angeles region, with damaging gusts in the foothills and the potential for additional fire spread, NWS forecasters said Thursday afternoon. Forecasts call for wind gusts up to 55 mph overnight Thursday into Friday, and more high-wind threats are looming for LA County into early next week.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/09/la-fire-weather-next-week-friday	2025/01/10	
19 people have died in the wildfires spreading across Southern California	Environment-wildfires	Ten people have died due to the fires, the Los Angeles Medical Examiner's Office confirmed. Identification may take several weeks, the examiner said. About 180,000 people have had to evacuate and another 200,000 people are under evacuation warnings, the LA County Sheriff's Department said. Multiple injuries have been reported from residents who did not evacuate and officials say more than 4,000 structures have been destroyed by the Eaton Fire alone. A new blaze erupted in the Hollywood Hills on Wednesday night, prompting further evacuation orders. California Governor Gavin Newsom announced that more than 7,500 local, state and federal firefighting personnel and 1,200 fire trucks have been deployed in a bid to grasp a handle on the fast-moving fires.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/10/g-s-1-41873/california-fires-los-angeles-	2025/01/10	
LA wildfires mapped: Palisades and Eaton blazes now cover more than 30,000 acres	Environment-wildfires	An arson suspect has been arrested around the area of the newly-sparked Kenneth fire after being accused of attempting to ignite a new blaze with a "flamethrower".	https://www.yahoo.com/news/la-wildfires-mapped-palisades-eaton-183	2025/01/10	
Arson suspect arrested by citizens near Kenneth fire, armed with a 'propane tank or flamethrower'	Environment-Wildfires	While the cause for the Palisades, Eaton and Hurst fires are still under investigation, the Los Angeles Police Department initially said it believed the Kenneth fire was started intentionally. ... Locals who spotted the suspect and called 911 rallied together to corner the man, before binding his wrists with rope and zip ties and holding him down until police arrived. ... The suspect claimed that he used a blowtorch "to smoke marijuana" because he "couldn't afford a lighter," according to Grinstead.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/crime/arson-kenn	2025/01/10	
Winter Storm Cora brings cold and snow to the Southern U.S.	Environment-Winter weather	Sleet and snow began to fall across much of the southern U.S. Thursday and more is expected Friday as the second major winter storm sweeps across the country. Winter Storm Cora is expected to bring between four to six inches of snow between Texas and the Carolinas by Sunday. But parts of Arkansas and Tennessee could see up to eight inches.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/09/hx-s1-5254494/winter-storm-cora-bring	2025/01/10	
Another winter storm is brewing: See which states are expected to see snow, ice	Environment-Winter weather	According to the National Weather Service, the storm will move out of Northern Mexico and advance eastward to the Western Gulf Coast by Thursday evening, and to the Central Gulf Coast by Friday morning.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/another-winter-storm-brewing-see-16114	2025/01/10	
Winter storm plods into the Deep South, prompting states of emergency and school closures	Environment-Winter weather	Snow that began falling in metro Atlanta before dawn led to hundreds of flights being cancelled and hundreds more delayed at Atlanta's airport, according to flight tracking software FlightAware. With radar showing much of the heaviest precipitation in Georgia concentrated in a band near Atlanta's airport, controllers declared a ground stop before 8 a.m., meaning no planes could land or take off. Atlanta, a major hub for Delta Air Lines, is the world's busiest airport. Gov. Brian Kemp declared a state of emergency for Georgia.	https://apnews.com/article/winter-storm-severe-weather-e071cb71025b	2025/01/10	
Teen with gun arrested at Georgia high school that was scene of deadly shooting months ago, cops say	Guns and schools	The student, who wasn't named because of his age, was taken to a juvenile detention center in Gainesville. He's charged with two counts of possessing a weapon on school grounds, theft and being a minor in possession of a gun. Deputies didn't say what kind of gun was seized. Authorities said the student was arrested shortly after 2 p.m. at school, but they did not say when he arrived or release details of the circumstances of the arrest.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/apalachee-high-s	2025/01/10	
The bird flu is low-risk for most people — for now	Health- bird flu	The bird flu virus circulating among cows, poultry and wild birds isn't yet a threat to the general public, but experts say if and when that will change is impossible to predict — and that if things do get bad, the U.S. is probably underprepared. The first bird flu fatality isn't indicative of an imminent crisis. But the more chances the virus is given to spread and mutate, the more likely it evolves into something capable of sparking a pandemic.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/10/bird-flu-pandemic-risk-prepared	2025/01/10	
UnitedHealthcare Calls Doctor Mid Surgery To Ask If Her Patient's Overnight Stay Is Necessary	Health- United	During a breast reconstruction procedure, Potter said she was contacted in the operating room and told that a UHC rep had called and needed to speak to her right away about the patient she was operating on. She scrubbed out and gave the "gentleman," a call — only to be questioned about the woman's diagnosis and "whether her inpatient stay should be justified."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/unitedhealthcare-calls-doctor-mid-surger	2025/01/10	
Woman who lost hand fighting off a shark is raising money for a new prosthetic - after insurance refused to pay	Healthcare	"I was like, 'do you understand that she's asleep right now and she has breast cancer?'" Potter recounted. "And the gentleman said, 'actually, I don't — that's a different department that would know that information.'" Clearly perturbed, Potter told the representative that the overnight post-surgery stay was indeed necessary — and that moreover, UHC should already have that information because the surgery had already been approved. A Virginia woman who lost her hand after defending herself in a savage shark attack in Florida is desperately raising money to pay for a prosthetic hand - after insurance denied to pay for a new limb.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/shark-attack-florid	2025/01/10	
What's next for Canada? 5 questions will help decide the future after Trudeau	International-Canada	When will the two key elections take place? Canada's next general election had been set for Oct. 20, 2025, based on the timing of the last election in 2021. That plan is now changing drastically. Who are the contenders to be the next prime minister? The current favorite is Pierre Poilievre, whose Conservative Party has gained a 24-point lead over Trudeau's Liberals as of this week, according to the CBC's poll tracker. What about Canada's relationship with the U.S.? Canadians' cost of living will be a central issue in the next election, Sevi says. But foreign policy — especially Canada's relationship with the U.S. — is also likely to be on voters' minds. On the morning of Jan. 1, Russia pumped its last cubic meters of natural gas directly to Europe, ending decades of trade that had benefited all sides — and heated homes — through some of the darkest winters of the Cold War and well into the 21st century.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/09/hx-s1-5251302/whats-next-for-canada-	2025/01/10	
Here's what's behind Russia cutting off its last gas line to Europe	International-Russia	For now, the crisis is focused in a region called Transnistria, located on the eastern edge of the former Soviet republic of Moldova. It's a sliver of territory with a population of some 360,000 bordering Ukraine that declared independence with the breakup of the USSR. It has been under Russian protection, including by Russian peacekeepers, ever since. Fact-checking suddenly looks quaint, inadequate and practically irrelevant. We no longer need fact-checkers. We need reality-checkers.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/09/hx-s1-5247514/russia-gas-moldova-tra	2025/01/10	
Behind the Curtain: Reality-checkers	Misinformation	This is uncharted terrain. What's real? What's spin? What's outright misinformation? And who do you trust to make sense of it all? And what if others trust people who are untrustworthy?	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/10/trump-news-media-fact-checking-re	2025/01/10	
DeSantis nominee for UWF board says women shouldn't delay motherhood for higher ed, career	Political cesspool	For years, political scientist Scott Yenior has advocated for overhauling colleges and universities, which he has argued undermine traditional American families by encouraging women to pursue careers and put off childbearing. Now Yenior may get a chance to implement his policy proposals after Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed him to the board of the University of West Florida, a public school in Pensacola with about 14,000 students.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/desantis-appointee-university-board-says	2025/01/10	
Abortion restrictions struck down by New Mexico Supreme Court	Reproductive rights	The New Mexico Supreme Court on Thursday struck down abortion restrictions by conservative cities and counties at the request of the state attorney general. A federal appeals court paved the way Thursday for special counsel Jack Smith to release a final report on President-elect Trump's two dismissed federal criminal cases.	https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/abortion-restrictions-struck-new-	2025/01/10	
Smith's final report on Trump cases can be released, appeals court says	Trump Bulshit	The ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit in Atlanta comes in response to a request from Trump aid Walt Nauta and former Mar-a-Lago property manager Carlos de Oliveira, who were both charged in the dismissed classified documents case. The timing of the report's release remains unclear. The Supreme Court on Thursday denied President-elect Trump's request to delay his Friday sentencing in his criminal hush money case.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/10/trump-appeals-court-jack-smith-rep	2025/01/10	
Supreme Court denies Trump's effort to stop hush money sentencing	Trump Bulshit	Though Trump faces no jail time for his 34 felony convictions, the Supreme Court's decision is the final blow to his efforts to sideline his sentencing just days before he returns to the White House. The sentencing will formalize his status as the only living president to be convicted of a crime.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/10/trump-supreme-court-hush-money-s	2025/01/10	
Reality bites Trump	Trump Bulshit	1. Elon Musk last night scaled back his radically ambitious pledge to slash "at least \$2 trillion" from the federal budget, suggesting in a new interview that achieving just half of that would be an "epic outcome." 2. Trump's team has told European officials that the true deadline for ending the war in Ukraine is "several months," despite Trump long claiming he would do so within 24 hours of taking office, the Financial Times reported today. 3. Weeks after winning an election dominated by inflation concerns, Trump rejected the notion that his presidency would be a "failure" if he were unable to bring down grocery prices.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/09/trump-musk-campaign-promises	2025/01/10	
Trouble in Trumpworld over H-1B visas makes for strange bedfellows	Trump Bulshit	Trump's appointment of Sriram Krishnan, an Indian American venture capitalist, as an adviser on artificial intelligence sparked a backlash from within his base — fueled in part by anti-Indian racism and criticism of Krishnan's views on immigration. This was the stage for an acrimonious spat over the merits and pitfalls of the H-1B scheme. More than 15,000 doctors have signed a letter urging senators to vote against confirming Robert F. Kennedy Jr., President-elect Donald Trump's pick for secretary of health and human services. "The health and well-being of 336 million Americans depend on leadership at HHS that prioritizes science, evidence-based medicine, and strengthening the integrity of our public health system," the letter reads. "RFK Jr. is not only unqualified to lead this essential agency — he is actively dangerous."	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/10/h-1b-visas-bannon	2025/01/10	
More than 15,000 doctors sign letter urging Senate to reject RFK Jr. as health secretary	Trump Cesspool	On Wednesday, Rudy Giuliani told a federal judge in Washington, D.C. that it could be dangerous for him to attend an upcoming contempt hearing led to his defamation case with election workers Ruby Freeman and Wandrea "Shaye" Moss due to ongoing issues with his knee, heart and lungs, as well as what he said were death threats linked to his criticisms of Iran. In response, U.S. District Beryl Howell gave Giuliani permission to attend the hearing remotely on one condition: He must declare, under penalty of perjury, that he cannot not travel anywhere because of those reasons and therefore would not travel for the next month — including over Trump's inauguration. In a declaration filed Thursday, Giuliani said it wasn't that he said he couldn't travel, it was just that he probably shouldn't. His death threats were credible, he said, and he is definitely suffering various ailments that require him to take medication.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/more-15-000-doctors-sign-174233205-htr	2025/01/10	
Rudy Giuliani Says He's Too Sick For Court Hearing — But Fine For Trump's Inauguration	Trump Cesspool		https://www.yahoo.com/news/rudy-giuliani-says-hes-too-200813028-htr	2025/01/10	

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A rare yellow cardinal draws eyes to St. Louis bird-watching	Weird World	The day after Christmas, Taka Yanagimoto, the St. Louis Cardinals' director of photography, came upon a cardinal of a different sort in his backyard: a male specimen with a rare mutation that makes its leathers yellow instead of red. ... "It's not a rare species, but it is a rare condition called xanthism," said St. Louis Audubon Society board member Bill Rowe. "It's due to a [genetic] mutation. I've [also] seen cardinals like this that were partly white and partly red that look like peppermint candy."	https://www.stlpr.org/show/st-louis-on-the-air/2025-01-07/a-rare-yellow	2025/01/10	
Diver walks 370 feet underwater on a single breath	Weird World	An Australian freediver went for a 370-foot, 2-inch stroll at the bottom of a pool to break the Guinness World Record for the longest underwater walk with one breath (female). The Waller Zoo in Gosau said heavy snowfall caused branches to break in the red panda enclosure, giving a path for female red pandas Li and Yen to climb to freedom. Li traveled only a few yards away and was found munching on branches with the zoo's vicuñas – South American relatives of camels – but Yen "was more adventurous," the zoo said on social media. "Her tracks led us outside the zoo into the forest," the post said.	https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2025/01/10/australia-Guinness-World-	2025/01/10	
Snowstorm helps red pandas escape from zoo enclosure	Weird World	Zookeepers, aided by a helpful pedestrian and a tracking K9, located Yen "taking a leisurely stroll in the forest."	https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2025/01/09/switzerland-red-pandas-es	2025/01/10	
Wrong turn strands car on ski slope at Colorado resort	Weird World	Police in Colorado responded to a ski resort to remove an unusual hazard from the slopes: a car that took a wrong turn. The sheriff's office said it was "not our everyday illegal parking call."	https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2025/01/08/Keystone-Resort-Colorado	2025/01/10	
Man uses rude driver's license plate to play the lottery, wins \$500,000	Weird World	A Maryland man used the license plate number from a car that cut him off in traffic to play the lottery and won a \$500,000 prize. Australian police have released CCTV video of a bungling arsonist who set their own pants alight and had to hot-foot it from the scene without them. ... One of them tried to set the fluid alight at the front of the outlet, just out of the view of a camera.	https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2025/01/06/lotto-Maryland-Lottery-rud	2025/01/10	
Bungling arsonist in Australia sets pants on fire	Weird World	In an instant, the arsonist is seen again engulfed in flames and then hurriedly removing the burning trousers before running off bare-cheeked with an apparently unharmed accomplice.	https://news.yahoo.com/news/bungling-arsonist-australia-sets-pants-07	2025/01/10	
Middle-Aged Man Makes A Living Praising Strangers On the Street	Weird World	Uncle Praise first made news headlines in Japan in September of last year when Fuji TV released a short documentary on his unique "profession". The 43-year-old man reportedly used to work for a company in his hometown of Tochigi, but at one point in his life, he got so addicted to gambling that he lost both his family and his job. His father fell ill, he lost his job and couldn't pay the mortgage anymore, his family eventually cut ties with him, and he found himself living on the street. It was a rude awakening that helped him beat his gambling addiction and really assess his life. The middle-aged man had always dreamed of being a street performer, but he had no special skills such as magic tricks or singing, so he came up with the idea of praising people for money. Uncle Praise will often stand for hours on end holding his sign without a single person approaching him for his services, but in the three years he has been practicing his unique trade, he managed to get regular clients who call him whenever they need a morale boost. After going viral on social media, he started making "business trips" around Japan and has so far traveled to 31 of the country's 47 prefectures to praise people. On average, he compliments more than 30 people a day, earning about 10,000 yen (\$65).	https://www.oddtvcentral.com/news/middle-aged-man-makes-a-living-p	2025/01/10	
Quiet Welsh Village Terrorized By Shoppers Looking for Supermarket That Only Exists on Google Maps	Weird World	The Welsh village of Cyffylliog was "invaded" by bargain-hunting shoppers looking for a non-existent Aldi supermarket that internet trolls added to Google Maps as a prank. The "add a missing place" feature on Google Maps can be very useful when used correctly, but when abused by pranksters, it can cause headaches for entire communities. Case in point, Cyffylliog, a quiet Welsh village in Denbighshire whose inhabitants have seen a flood of confused shoppers looking for a "phantom Aldi supermarket" that only exists as a pin on Google Maps. Believed to have been added by a local internet troll, the listing has so far led thousands of people to a grassy field, tens of miles away from the nearest checkout lane. After a milk truck became stuck on a narrow village truck trying to deliver its cargo to the phantom Aldi, locals said that they have been visited by vans trying to deliver groceries and bread to the non-existent supermarket, as well as confused shoppers led there by their smartphones.	https://www.oddtvcentral.com/news/quiet-welsh-village-terrorized-by-st	2025/01/10	
Company Sells Bags of Popcorn as Edible Cushioning Material	Weird World	Azechi Foods, a popcorn manufacturer and delicacy wholesaler in Japan's Kochi City, has become famous for using and selling popcorn not just as a snack but as a cushioning material. The company's manager, Shihoko Wada, had been struggling to promote popcorn on the Azechi Foods online store where people mainly bought delicacies when she was inspired by a laptop repair technician at a management seminar. The man used Umaibo sticks (cylindrical puffed corn snacks) as a cushioning material, and while some in attendance found it funny, for Wada it was a revelation. Not only could the popcorn be used as an actual snack after use, but it was also an incredible opportunity to attract attention. "If Umaibo can be used as a cushioning material, then I thought the popcorn that our company makes could also be used as a cushioning material," Shihoko Wada told Gendai Magazine. "Once it's finished serving its purpose as a cushioning material, I can be eaten, so it doesn't become useless garbage. Above all, I thought that the customers who received it would be happy with the surprise, they would get a sense of value, and it would also help improve the company's image."	https://www.oddtvcentral.com/foods/company-sells-bags-of-popcorn-as	2025/01/10	
An albatross couple shares egg duty in this captivating low-drama reality show	Weird World	It's a reality show about a loving couple waiting to welcome their new arrival, watched by thousands of ardent fans. But the stars of Royal Cam, now in its 10th season, aren't socialites or hopefuls in love but northern royal albatrosses — majestic New Zealand seabirds with 10-foot (3-meter) wingspans. The show's premise is simple. Each season, conservation rangers select an albatross couple as that year's stars. A camera on the remote headland follows the chosen birds as they lay and incubate an egg, before their chick hatches around February, grows to adult size, and finally takes flight.	https://wtop.com/trending-now/2025/01/an-albatross-couple-shares-egg	2025/01/10	
Missing dog returned to family home and rang the doorbell	Weird World	Unlike human reality shows, drama is rare: Royal albatrosses usually mate for life. Rangers selecting the birds to follow each "season" avoid anything controversial: no first-time parents and no aggressive or grumpy personalities. The entire search was a terrifying and scary experience for Comer, who was worried about where her already skittish dog could have gone or could have encountered. That was until 2:30 a.m. Christmas Eve, when she got a Ring video notification from her doorbell and her other dog began barking. "I was kind of like in a daze, and the dog was barking, and as soon as I heard that ring, I looked at my phone and you could see in the video it was Athena and she was jumping at the door, ringing the doorbell," Comer said.	https://wtop.com/animals-pets/2024/12/missing-dog-returned-to-family	2025/01/10	
Here's why Meta ended fact-checking, according to experts	Zuck sucks	As soon as Comer opened the door, Athena bolted inside and went to go lick her son's face, who was on the couch half-asleep. After that, she immediately grabbed her ball to play and shortly went to her cage to go back to sleep. Fact-checkers who were put in place in the wake of Donald Trump's 2016 election have proven to be "too politically biased" and have destroyed "more trust than they've created," particularly in the United States, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg said in a video posted by the company. Critics of the move said it reflected a partisan effort to align Meta with President-elect Trump, who has repeatedly criticized the company for alleged anti-conservative bias. Proponents, meanwhile, praised the decision as a sign of renewed emphasis on free speech rather than content policing. In recent years, however, the social media platforms have shifted toward a conservative-friendly, laissez-faire approach to speech, Sol Messing, a research associate professor at New York University's Center for Social Media and Politics and a former research scientist at Facebook, told ABC News.	https://abcnews.go.com/US/why-did-meta-remove-fact-checkers-expert	2025/01/10	
'No One Treated Us Like Inmates': Why Prisoners Opt to Fight Fires	ACAB	After extinguishing the blaze, though, Mota wasn't treated as a hero. She and her compatriots showered and changed, but instead of heading home to a soft bed and a hot meal, they were shuffled back to Central California Women's Prison, back to the endless yelling and despair. "We did these huge shifts, huge fires, and then we rolled back to the prison and we cleaned the engine," she says. "If we wanted to call our families and talk about what happened, that's a collect call on a payphone, right? There's not much additional support that folks get." And don't get her started on therapy — that would get her disqualified from the program. So after fires and fatalities and horrors, Mota and her friends just had to suck it up.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/no-one-treated-us-inmates-150000774.ht	2025/01/13	
Horrific moment cops walk away from gunshot victim because their shifts were ending	ACAB	The scale of the current tragedy throws into relief what many prison reformers see as the injustice of the current program, which is largely made possible due a 13th Amendment loophole that allows incarcerated people to be forced to work for public and private enterprises for extremely low wages. That loophole remained open following the most recent U.S. election, which saw California voters shooting down Proposition 6, which would have abolished prison labor. As such, inmates continue to fight fires, a job that has the highest injury rates among prison jobs (they're four times as likely to get injured as traditional firefighters) and pays \$0.16 to \$0.74 an hour.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/crime/cops-ignore	2025/01/16	
Sheriff defends deputies who detained and handcuffed 11-year-old girl after mistaking her for suspect	ACAB	A sheriff's office in New York defended two deputies who detained and handcuffed an 11-year-old girl this week, saying she matched the description of a suspect. The Onondaga County Sheriff's Office, responding to criticism after a video of the encounter was posted online, called the deputies' actions "reasonable" but said it would change its policy to notify a parent or guardian of any child who is detained for criminal investigative purposes, which it did not do in this instance. But after more than half a century in elected office, the 82-year-old great-grandfather had one last surprise. The primetime speech did not mention Donald Trump by name. Instead it will be remembered for its dark, ominous warning about something wider and deeper of which Trump is a symptom. "Today, an oligarchy is taking shape in America of extreme wealth, power, and influence that literally threatens our entire democracy, our basic rights and freedom and a fair shot for everyone to get ahead," Biden said. ... As expected, he did use some of his remarks on Wednesday to correct that record and make his case to future historians: "It will take time to feel the impact of all we've done together, but the seeds are planted and they'll grow and they'll bloom for decades to come." There was an echo of a lyric in the musical Hamilton: "Legacy. What is a legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden you never get to see."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/sheriff-defends-deputies-detained-handc	2025/01/17	
Biden bids farewell with dark warning for America: the oligarchs are coming	Biden Admin	As expected, he did use some of his remarks on Wednesday to correct that record and make his case to future historians: "It will take time to feel the impact of all we've done together, but the seeds are planted and they'll grow and they'll bloom for decades to come." There was an echo of a lyric in the musical Hamilton: "Legacy. What is a legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden you never get to see."	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/15/joe-biden-oval-office	2025/01/16	

Headline	Category	Blurb	URL	Day	Search terms
		The Biden administration is making a final push to fortify America's cyber defenses against mounting threats from China and Russia, issuing a sweeping cybersecurity executive order just days before leaving office that aims to tackle vulnerabilities from outer space to consumer electronics. ... "The goal is to make it costlier and harder for China, Russia, Iran and ransomware criminals to hack and to signal that America means business when it comes to protecting our businesses and our citizens," a senior administration official told reporters on Wednesday. ... "Making our infrastructure as a nation more defensible and making it easier to sanction and push back against cyber actors – both of those are pretty bipartisan goals," the senior official said.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/16/biden-cyber-china-russia	2025/01/16	
Biden strengthens US cyber defenses against Russia, and China threats	Biden Admin				
		For King, the key to success wasn't just those ARP dollars. "Secretary Cardona came in with the task of trying to make sure that kids got back in school and that educators could be hopeful again. And he was, in some ways, the exact right person." The strategy that worked was to focus on improving pre-existing forgiveness programs that Congress had already created, including one for borrowers who work a decade in public service and another that promised relief for borrowers with a severe disability. "I want to warn the country of some things that give me great concern. And this is a dangerous concern. And that's the dangerous concentration of power in the hands of a very few ultra-wealthy people," Biden said. He added, "Today, an oligarchy is taking shape in America of extreme wealth, power and influence that literally threatens our entire democracy, our basic rights and freedoms, and a fair shot for everyone to get ahead." ... "Americans are being buried under an avalanche of misinformation and disinformation, enabling the abuse of power. The free press is crumbling, editors are disappearing," he added. "Social media is giving up on fact checking. The truth is smothered by lies told for power and for profit. We must hold the social platforms accountable to protect our children, our families and our very democracy from the abuse of power," he urged. "It will take time to feel the full impact of what we've done together. But the seeds are planted, and they'll grow and they'll bloom for decades to come," he said during his farewell address. ... "Artificial intelligence is the most consequential technology of our time, perhaps of all time. Nothing offers more profound possibilities and risks for our economy and our security, our society, for humanity. Artificial intelligence even has the potential to help us answer my call to end cancer as we know it. But unless safeguards are in place, AI could spawn new threats to our rights, our way of life, to our privacy, how we work and how we protect our nation," he said. ... "We have to stay engaged in the process. I know it's frustrating. A fair shot is what makes America, America," Biden said. "Everyone is entitled to a fair shot, not a guarantee, just a fair shot, an even playing field." The president said that "the concentration of power and wealth" causes division and could make people feel like it is exhausting to participate in democracy.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/16/nx-s1-5251622/biden-schools-education	2025/01/17	
Biden's education grades: F on FAFSA, an incomplete on student loan forgiveness	Biden Admin				
		The president said that "the concentration of power and wealth" causes division and could make people feel like it is exhausting to participate in democracy.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/key-lines-president-joe-biden-021241217	2025/01/17	
Key lines from President Joe Biden's farewell address	Biden Admin				
		Joe Biden, who leaves office next week, announced on Friday he was commuting the sentences of nearly 2,500 people convicted of non-violent drug offenses, saying he had now issued more individual pardons and commutations than any predecessor. The US president said in a statement that those benefiting from Friday's action were "serving disproportionately long sentences compared to the sentences they would receive today under current law, policy and practices".	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/17/joe-biden-commute	2025/01/17	
Joe Biden commutes sentences of nearly 2,500 non-violent drug offenders	Biden Admin				
		The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) says it will challenge state laws that make it easier for President-elect Trump to adopt his mass deportation plan and urge other states to put up legal roadblocks to slow mass raids.			
ACLU outlines how it will fight Trump's mass deportations	Borders and immigration		https://www.axios.com/2025/01/14/aclu-mass-deportations-trump-laws	2025/01/15	
		Documents obtained by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) show that the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is considering proposals to expand its immigration detention capacity in at least eight states. ... "These records only further confirm ICE's work to expand immigration detention across the country," Eunice Cho, senior staff attorney at the ACLU's National Prison Project, said in a statement. Cho said this includes in facilities "with clear records of abuse" and in areas where immigration detention has not previously existed. "Expansion of detention will only enable ICE to enact President-elect Donald Trump's plans for mass deportation." Between the lines: The documents show that the Biden administration, just like the Obama administration, was involved in outlining its own stepped-up deportation plan while attacking Republicans for suggesting the same.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/15/ice-detention-expansion-biden-trump	2025/01/16	
ICE records show Biden admin plans could give Trump a head start on deportations	Borders and immigration				
		Before someone is deported, they are usually detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, in one of around 130 facilities nationwide. The vast majority of those are owned or operated by private prison companies that contract with ICE. ... In 2023, GEO Group made more than \$1 billion through contracts with ICE, amounting to a little more than 40% of its total revenue. Another private prison company, CoreCivic, made more than \$500 million, about a third of its total revenue that year. ... Immigrants facing removal are often detained in county jails that rent out space to ICE or to private prison companies. That helps create a critical revenue stream for many municipalities. The Department of Homeland Security estimates it costs about \$150 a day to detain an adult.			
Trump's challenge: where to house millions of immigrant detainees	Borders and immigration		https://www.npr.org/2025/01/16/nx-s1-5218641/immigrant-detention-trump	2025/01/17	
		This is the scenario Americans could face in Trump's second term. Under Trump, Christian nationalists will have unprecedented access to the power of the federal government. Trump's GOP has unified control of Congress. And a conservative supermajority, which has already blurred the line between separation of church and state in a series of decisions favoring Christian interests, controls the US Supreme Court. It will embolden and empower the White Christian nationalist movement. In all likelihood, it will institutionalize White Christian nationalism. It will transform our government, with the goal of transforming our society. It will likely place White Christian nationalists in positions of enormous political power. It could be transformative. We can expect this Christian nationalist agenda to transform the public school system. One of the proposals with Christian nationalists is to eliminate the Department of Education, to look to the privatization of schooling, but also to transform the curriculum throughout public schools. The anti-CRT (critical race theory) and anti-woke agenda that we have seen played out on a smaller scale in certain states — that is what we should expect to see on a national scale. One of the more extreme examples is a 9,615-square-foot Tudor mansion in Bel Air that was listed for \$29,500 a month in December — before resurprising last week for \$39,000 a month. But more modest properties aren't exempt. A 1,200-square-foot two-bedroom in Woodland Hills was listed for \$3,900 in November; it's \$5,900 now. "Call @MyLA311 to report illegally hiked rents and prices," Bass posted on X. "We have no tolerance for it." But elsewhere, the gouging continues. On Monday, a "newly remodeled luxury home" appeared on Redfin for \$25,000 a month. The price when it was last listed in December? \$19,000 a month. "People are desperate," one agent told Laist when asked why she instructed her clients to relist their home last week for nearly twice its previous price. "You can probably get good money."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/hundreds-of-la-landlords-hike-rents-to-ca	2025/01/14	
Hundreds of L.A. landlords hike rents to capitalize on 'desperate' fire evacuees	Cesspool				
		After the Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives passed an exclusionary anti-trans bill, the so-called Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2025, on Tuesday, Democrats sounded the alarm about how the bill exposes children to genital checks and exploitation by sexual predators. The legislation, which bans transgender girls and women from competing in school sports aligned with their gender identity, passed narrowly on a 218-208 vote, with two Democrats — Texas U.S. Reps. Henry Cuellar and Vicente Gonzalez — voting in favor.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/gop-trans-sports-bill-exposes-120447343	2025/01/17	
GOP trans sports bill exposes children to genital inspections by sexual predators. Democrats warn	Cesspool				
		What happened in Ohio was a stark illustration of a development that has often gone unnoticed, perhaps because it is largely taking place away from blue state media hubs. In the past few years, school vouchers have become universal in a dozen states, including Florida, Arizona and North Carolina. Proponents are pushing to add Texas, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and others — and, with Donald Trump returning to the White House, they will likely have federal support. The risks of universal vouchers are quickly coming to light. An initiative that was promoted for years as a civil rights cause — helping poor kids in troubled schools — is threatening to become a nationwide money grab. Many private schools are raising tuition rates to take advantage of the new funding, and new schools are being founded to capitalize on it. With private schools urging all their students' families to apply, the money is flowing mostly to parents who are already able to afford tuition and to kids who are already enrolled in private schools. When vouchers do draw students away from public districts, they threaten to exacerbate declining enrollment, forcing underpopulated schools to close. More immediately, the cost of the programs is soaring, putting pressure on public school finances even as private schools prosper. In Arizona, voucher expenditures are hundreds of millions of dollars more than predicted, leaving an enormous shortfall in the state budget. States that provide funds to families for homeschooling or education-related expenses are contending with reports that the money is being used to cover such unusual purchases as kayaks, video game consoles and horseback-riding lessons.	https://www.propublica.org/article/school-vouchers-ohio-church-state-ta	2025/01/16	
On a Mission From God: Inside the Movement to Redirect Billions of Taspayer Dollars to Private Religious Schools	Cesspool-Education				

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After New Orleans and Vegas attacks by veterans, what will Trump do about extremism in the military?	Cesspool-Extremism	"We found that support for those ideologies or for those groups was the same or lower than the overall U.S. population, suggesting that veterans don't necessarily ideologically or group-wise have a disproportionate baseline vulnerability to get radicalized or recruited," he told The Independent. However, veterans that do hold extremist views are more likely to act on them. ... "They have this expertise and you saw it in both of these events," Via said. "You saw it with the surveillance. You saw it with the planning. With the recording. With the weapons training. The IEDs. All of that is military training." These attributes, plus America's high esteem for the military, are why right-wing groups and militias like the Oath Keepers explicitly recruit active military and veterans, to often frightening results. The rising number of people with military backgrounds engaging in domestic terrorism over the past three decades can partially be attributed to the difficulty transitioning from active duty to veteran status and a lack of community or purpose, experts say. A December report from the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism found that from 1990 to 2023, 730 individuals with U.S. military backgrounds had committed criminal acts that were motivated by their political, economic, social or religious goals. There has been an incline in the past decade or so: From 1990-2010, an average of 7.1 people per year with U.S. military backgrounds committed extremist crimes. Since 2011, that number has grown to 44.6 per year.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/new-orleans-vega-2025-01-13	2025/01/13	
Growing number of military veterans committing extremist crimes, research shows	Cesspool-Extremism	Governor Ron DeSantis has called a special session of the Florida legislature to begin January 27 to discuss among other things immigration reform. ... The governor said he's previewed several of these mandates at meetings with President-elect Trump, including at a recent meeting with Republican governors at Mar-a-Lago last week. But he was mum on what they said, hinting only that extending what's known as 287(g) contracts might be part of these mandates. These contracts deputize local and state law enforcement officers to act as immigration or ICE agents, to identify, process, and detain immigration offenders." A conspiracy-linked to conspiracy theorist Alex Jones has doubled its offer to over \$7 million to buy his Infowars platforms after it lost a bankruptcy auction to The Onion satirical news operation. ... First United American Companies, which runs a website in Jones' name that sells nutritional supplements, submitted the new offer even though there was no request to do so. Joshua Wolfshohl, an attorney for the trustee overseeing Jones' bankruptcy, told a bankruptcy court judge at a hearing in Houston. U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Christopher Lopez voided the original auction and rejected the sale of Infowars to The Onion in December, saying the bidding process was flawed, not transparent and didn't raise enough money for creditors. He also said there was too much confusion about The Onion's bid and its actual value. The Onion and First United American were the only two bidders.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/15/military-veterans-extremist-groups	2025/01/15	
DeSantis calls special session to enforce Trump's immigration mandates	Cesspool-Florida	Signify, an organisation that works with prominent groups and clubs in sports to track and report online hate, said it has seen an increase in reports of abuse since Grok's latest update, and believes the introduction of photorealistic AI will make it far more prevalent. "It is a problem now, but it's really just the start of a coming problem. It is going to get so much worse and we're just at the start, I expect over the next 12 months it will become incredibly serious." ... "The thing that X has done, to a degree that no other mainstream platform has done, is to offer cash incentives to accounts to do this, so accounts on X are very deliberately posting the most naked hate and disinformation possible."	https://www.cfpb.org/education/2025-01-13/desantis-calls-special-s	2025/01/14	
Company linked to Alex Jones doubles offer to buy Infowars after defamation bankruptcy	Cesspool-Suspicious	UnitedHealth Group is expected to post a sizable profit on Thursday morning when it reports its fourth-quarter and year-end earnings report, despite being hit by a historically costly cyberattack and weathering ever-rising medical costs. This is the first earnings report and the first time executives of UnitedHealth Group will speak publicly since the killing of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson. Analysts estimate UnitedHealth will likely report fourth-quarter earnings are an average of \$6.72 per share, which would be a 3.1% year-over-year increase over the fourth quarter a year earlier. Others expect 8% year-over-year earnings growth.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/alex-jones-infowars-defamation-b	2025/01/14	
'Just the start': X's new AI software driving online racist abuse, experts warn	Cesspool-Technology	In a notice to shareholders, Apple's board has recommended investors vote against the proposal because, it says, it already has the right compliance procedures to deal with any risks and because the proposal "inappropriately attempts to restrict Apple's ability to manage its own ordinary business operations, people and teams, and business strategies." UnitedHealth Group is expected to post a sizable profit on Thursday morning when it reports its fourth-quarter and year-end earnings report, despite being hit by a historically costly cyberattack and weathering ever-rising medical costs. This is the first earnings report and the first time executives of UnitedHealth Group will speak publicly since the killing of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson. Analysts estimate UnitedHealth will likely report fourth-quarter earnings are an average of \$6.72 per share, which would be a 3.1% year-over-year increase over the fourth quarter a year earlier. Others expect 8% year-over-year earnings growth.	https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/jan/13/just-the-start-x-a	2025/01/13	
Apple asks investors to block proposal to scrap diversity programmes	DEI	The Consumer Finance Protection Bureau is suing Capital One, as it claims the bank failed to pay more than \$2 billion in interest to its customers. The consumer bureau, a federal agency responsible for consumer protection in the finance sector, alleges Capital One marketed its 360 Savings account as having some of the best interest rates in the country but did not mention to those customers that its newer product, the 360 Performance Savings account, had interest rates of up to 4.35%, compared to the 0.30% rate of 360 Savings. Vachris said he is committed to giving all workers the same opportunities and high wages but said the company does not use hiring quotas. The company employs about 300,000 people. The median Costco worker earns \$47,000, the outlet reported. "If these are the policies you see as offensive, I must tell you I am not prepared to change," he wrote back to the concerned customer.	https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/jan/13/apple-investors-d	2025/01/13	
What to expect with UnitedHealth's earnings Thursday	Eat the rich	Authorities in Louisiana have cleared Homeless encampments from sight in New Orleans as the city prepares to host the Super Bowl next month. Many people have been relocated to a temporary warehouse facility that costs millions of dollars to operate. Mortgage rates hit 7% for the first time since May 2024 on Thursday, providing another drag in an already tough housing market. The climbing mortgage rates come even after the Federal Reserve cut interest rates by a full percentage point in recent months — which had raised hopes among homebuyers that the costs of financing a house might come down. It's also worth remembering that although 7% may feel high given that mortgage rates had dropped to as low as 2.65% in early 2021, they are not high historically speaking.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/15/unitedhealth-earnings-expectations	2025/01/15	
UnitedHealth, employer of slain exec Brian Thompson, found to have overcharged some cancer patients for drugs by over 1,000%	Eat the rich	In fact, these mortgage rates were frequently at 6% or 7% or even higher at times in the 1990s and early 2000s and were in the double digits during the 1970s and 1980s. NPR's list includes 96 items from virtually every Walmart aisle: chips and veggies, shampoo and T-shirts, dog food and paper towels. To account for changes in package sizes, we focus on the price per unit, typically per ounce, whether it's toothpaste in a tube or soup in a can. Over the course of 2024, the tracked prices on average increased just 0.7% — far less than overall annual inflation, which was 2.7% in November. (December's inflation data will be released on Wednesday.) That's because exactly half of our tracked prices stayed the same from December 2023 to December 2024 — a notable relief after the COVID-19 pandemic, when most prices jumped year to year because of turmoil in supply chains and labor markets.	https://fortune.com/2025/01/15/fc-pbms-unitedhealth-brian-thompson-c	2025/01/16	
U.S. watchdog sues Capital One, alleging bank cheated customers out of \$2 billion	Economy-Banks	Items in NPR's shopping cart are much pricier since mid-2019, our last check before the pandemic. On average, those tracked prices have increased around 25%. And that's not far from federal inflation data: Cumulatively, U.S. prices are up 23% since 2019. Consumer prices rose 2.9% in December compared to a year ago, according to government data out on Wednesday. That's substantially lower than the four-decade high of 9.1% that the U.S. hit in mid-2022. But here's the worrying bit: It marks the third consecutive month in which annual inflation has slowly ticked higher — not lower. In December, gas and food prices were among the biggest contributors to inflation. Egg prices, which have been driven higher by the avian flu, were up by nearly 37% from a year ago.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/15/nc-s1-5260706/capital-one-interest-pay	2025/01/15	
Costco remains committed to DEI, its CEO told a critic, 'I am not prepared to change'	Economy-DEI	Car insurance costs were up 11% from last year. Meanwhile, gas prices are also on the rise, up 4.4% in December over November. Tractor maker John Deere faces a federal lawsuit that accuses the company of illegally forcing farmers to use only authorized dealers for critical repairs, boosting its multibillion-dollar profits. As tractors and combines have gotten more computerized, farmers have complained that Deere has restricted access to its software and made it difficult, or nearly impossible, for owners to diagnose and fix problems themselves or with the help of independent mechanics. Instead, farmers have to use authorized dealers, who tend to charge more and may take longer.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/costco-dei-commi	2025/01/16	
New Orleans moves homeless out of sight ahead of Super Bowl	Economy-Housing	U.S. defense contractor Anduril Industries is preparing to build a massive advanced manufacturing facility in central Ohio, adding a planned 4,000 jobs to the area's burgeoning high-tech sector, state officials announced Thursday. The Cosa Mesa, California-based defense technology company plans to begin construction of what it's calling "Arsenal 1" as soon as state and local approvals are secured. The 5 million-square-foot (464,515-square-meter) facility will be located on a 500-acre (202-hectare) site near Rickmanacker International Airport in rural Pickaway County, about 16 miles (26 kilometers) southeast of Columbus. On Tuesday, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order temporarily banning unsolicited and undervalued offers for properties in specific Los Angeles County zip codes. The order will be in place for three months, with the zip codes including areas such as Malibu, Altadena, Pasadena, and Pacific Palisades — some of the areas worst hit by the ongoing fires.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/super-bowl-new-o	2025/01/16	
Fed cuts were supposed to lower mortgage rates, but they're back above 7%. Here's why	Economy-Housing	Hyundai's role in the U.S. auto sector has mushroomed since Trump's first term. Hyundai has invested almost \$16 billion in U.S. vehicle production since 2021. That includes \$7.6 billion for a new electric vehicle factory in Georgia that opened last fall, and will eventually create 8,500 jobs and build more than 300,000 Hyundai, Kia and Genesis vehicles a year. Another \$5 billion battery joint venture with SK On will employ an additional 3,500 people.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/16/nc-s1-5254191/mortgage-rates-home-b	2025/01/17	
NPR shopped for 96 items at Walmart to track how prices are really changing	Economy-Inflation	U.S. defense contractor Anduril Industries is preparing to build a massive advanced manufacturing facility in central Ohio, adding a planned 4,000 jobs to the area's burgeoning high-tech sector, state officials announced Thursday. The Cosa Mesa, California-based defense technology company plans to begin construction of what it's calling "Arsenal 1" as soon as state and local approvals are secured. The 5 million-square-foot (464,515-square-meter) facility will be located on a 500-acre (202-hectare) site near Rickmanacker International Airport in rural Pickaway County, about 16 miles (26 kilometers) southeast of Columbus. On Tuesday, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order temporarily banning unsolicited and undervalued offers for properties in specific Los Angeles County zip codes. The order will be in place for three months, with the zip codes including areas such as Malibu, Altadena, Pasadena, and Pacific Palisades — some of the areas worst hit by the ongoing fires.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/14/nc-s1-5241014/walmart-prices-npr-ho	2025/01/15	
Inflation remains stubbornly high for many Americans. Could it get worse under Trump?	Economy-Inflation	Hyundai's role in the U.S. auto sector has mushroomed since Trump's first term. Hyundai has invested almost \$16 billion in U.S. vehicle production since 2021. That includes \$7.6 billion for a new electric vehicle factory in Georgia that opened last fall, and will eventually create 8,500 jobs and build more than 300,000 Hyundai, Kia and Genesis vehicles a year. Another \$5 billion battery joint venture with SK On will employ an additional 3,500 people.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/15/nc-s1-5259869/inflation-consumer-pric	2025/01/16	
John Deere faces U.S. lawsuit over farmers' ability to repair tractors	Economy-Lawsuit	U.S. defense contractor Anduril Industries is preparing to build a massive advanced manufacturing facility in central Ohio, adding a planned 4,000 jobs to the area's burgeoning high-tech sector, state officials announced Thursday. The Cosa Mesa, California-based defense technology company plans to begin construction of what it's calling "Arsenal 1" as soon as state and local approvals are secured. The 5 million-square-foot (464,515-square-meter) facility will be located on a 500-acre (202-hectare) site near Rickmanacker International Airport in rural Pickaway County, about 16 miles (26 kilometers) southeast of Columbus. On Tuesday, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order temporarily banning unsolicited and undervalued offers for properties in specific Los Angeles County zip codes. The order will be in place for three months, with the zip codes including areas such as Malibu, Altadena, Pasadena, and Pacific Palisades — some of the areas worst hit by the ongoing fires.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/15/nc-s1-5260895/john-deere-fc-lawsuit-r	2025/01/16	
US defense contractor to build 4,000-worker advanced manufacturing facility in central Ohio	Economy-Military	Hyundai's role in the U.S. auto sector has mushroomed since Trump's first term. Hyundai has invested almost \$16 billion in U.S. vehicle production since 2021. That includes \$7.6 billion for a new electric vehicle factory in Georgia that opened last fall, and will eventually create 8,500 jobs and build more than 300,000 Hyundai, Kia and Genesis vehicles a year. Another \$5 billion battery joint venture with SK On will employ an additional 3,500 people.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/us-defense-contractor-build-4-135833826	2025/01/17	
California moves to stop predatory sales of fire-stricken homes	Economy-Predators	Hyundai's role in the U.S. auto sector has mushroomed since Trump's first term. Hyundai has invested almost \$16 billion in U.S. vehicle production since 2021. That includes \$7.6 billion for a new electric vehicle factory in Georgia that opened last fall, and will eventually create 8,500 jobs and build more than 300,000 Hyundai, Kia and Genesis vehicles a year. Another \$5 billion battery joint venture with SK On will employ an additional 3,500 people.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/california-moves-stop-predatory-sales-11	2025/01/16	
Hyundai's \$13 billion investment in Georgia is the best antidote to Trump tariffs, CEO says	Economy-Tariffs		https://www.axios.com/2025/01/15/hyundai-trump-tariffs	2025/01/16	

Headline	Category	Blurb	URL	Day	Search terms
US deaths expected to exceed births within a decade	Economy-Workers	U.S. birth rates are projected to drop within a decade and will be exceeded by deaths, according to new projections released by the federal government this month. A drop in birth rates is expected due to an estimated loss in immigration. Without immigration, the population would shrink beginning in 2033, in part because fertility rates are projected to remain too low for a generation to replace itself, the office wrote in its report.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-deaths-exceed-births-2033-12289481.html	2025/01/16	
Invasive green crabs threaten West Coast ecosystems. One solution? Otters	Environment-Animals	Green crabs, native to coastal Europe and North Africa, can be extremely destructive as an invasive species. They can damage oyster and seagrass beds and also consume small mudflat invertebrates that provide food for shorebirds. As it turns out, sea otters — which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act — love to eat these crabs. One estimate by researchers in California found that a single otter can consume somewhere between 50,000-120,000 crabs a year. A new study, published in the Biological Invasions journal, found that there was a direct relationship between the two species: if an area had a healthy population of sea otters, it would also have a low green crab population.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/15/g-s1-42894/green-crabs-otters-science	2025/01/16	
As fires ravage the LA region, so too are conspiracy theories and misinformation	Environment-conspiracy	The Department of Homeland Security says scammers take advantage of disasters and emergency situations "to further an ulterior agenda" by playing on people's emotions and using trending algorithms for "hijacking conversations and financial scams."	https://laist.com/news/la-region-so-too-are-conspiracy-theories-and-misinformation	2025/01/15	
Economic growth could fall 50% over 20 years from climate shocks, say actuaries	Environment-Economy	Global economic growth could plummet by 50% between 2070 and 2090 from the catastrophic shocks of climate change unless immediate action by political leaders is taken to decarbonise and restore nature, according to a new report. Without urgent action to accelerate decarbonisation, remove carbon from the atmosphere and repair nature, the plausible worst-case hit to global economies would be 50% in the two decades before 2090, the IFOA report said. At 3C or more of heating by 2050, there could be more than 4 billion deaths, significant geographical fragmentation worldwide, failure of states (with resulting rapid, enduring, and significant loss of capital), and extinction events.	https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/16/economic-growth-climate-shocks	2025/01/16	
Nobel prize winners call for urgent 'moonshot' effort to avert global hunger catastrophe	Environment-Food	More than 150 Nobel and World Food prize laureates have signed an open letter calling for "moonshot" efforts to ramp up food production before an impending world hunger catastrophe. The coalition of some of the world's greatest living thinkers called for urgent action to prioritise research and technology to solve the "tragic mismatch of global food supply and demand". Citing challenges including the climate crisis, war and market pressures, the coalition called for "planet-friendly" efforts leading to substantial leaps in food production to feed 9.7 billion people by 2050. The plea was for financial and political backing, said agricultural scientist Geoffrey Hawtin, the British co-recipient of last year's World Food prize. "It's almost as if people are burying their head in the sand," he said. "There's so many other issues that grab the attention, that this is somehow insidious and creeping up on us and most people don't give it too much thought. Which is what makes how way off we are from meeting the UN targets on hunger very scary."	https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/jan/14/nobel-winners-call-for-urgent-moonshot-effort-to-avert-global-hunger-catastrophe	2025/01/14	
Big oil pushed to kill bill that would have made them pay for wildfire disasters	Environment-Fossil fuels	In the year preceding the devastating Los Angeles county wildfires, big oil fiercely lobbied to kill a "polluter pay" bill that moved through the California senate and would have forced major fossil fuel companies to help cover the costs of climate disasters. Chevron and Western States' flings that included polluter pay totaled over \$30m, although it is impossible to know spending levels for individual bills because lobbying laws do not require a breakdown. Others in the lobbying blitz included at least 34 of the world's largest oil producers, industry trade groups, and a range of greenhouse gas-polluting companies such as Phillips 66 and Valero, records show.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/15/polluter-pay-bill-clim	2025/01/15	
Toyota's commercial truck company will pay \$1.6 billion for faking emissions tests	Environment-Lawsuits	Hino Motors, a subsidiary of Toyota that manufactures commercial trucks, has agreed to plead guilty to a federal charge of a multi-year criminal conspiracy to fraudulently evade state and federal emissions standards. It's part of an umbrella settlement that also resolves civil claims brought by federal regulators and the state of California. The company is paying a total of \$1.6 billion in fines and penalties, including the second-largest criminal fine the Environmental Protection Agency has ever leveled for vehicle-based Clean Air Act violations.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/16/hx-s1-5262576/hino-toyota-trucks-emissions	2025/01/17	
'Everyone thought it would cause gridlock': the highway that Seoul turned into a stream	Environment-New ideas	Cheonggyecheon, a stream that runs for about 3.5 miles (nearly 6km) through Seoul, was one of the earliest experiments in an increasing trend in cities globally: turning spaces where there was once car or rail infrastructure into spaces for pedestrians and cyclists. It's a powerful example of the way that these spaces can become loved and popular, along with projects such as the High Line in New York, where an old railway track has been turned into a raised park, or the city moat in Utrecht, where a multi-lane road (nicknamed the "motorway from nothing to nowhere") was converted back into a canal, in part of a huge continuing push to allow pedestrians and cyclists to dominate the city's centre.	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/17/seoul-cheonggyecheon	2025/01/17	
How mega-polluters take advantage of billions in green loans	Environment-Pollution	That may sound like a typical "green" loan. But these "sustainability-linked loans," or SLLs, require little of the same accountability. Companies don't have to spend the money toward their sustainability targets, and neither they nor the banks have to disclose interest rates, benchmarks for success or the penalties for falling short. In the last several years, banks gave out more than \$286 billion in these SLLs to hundreds of companies in environmentally damaging industries, including fossil fuels, mining and companies linked to significant deforestation, an investigation by The Examination, Toronto Star and Mississippi Today has found. That's nearly 1 in 5 dollars out of all SLLs, the team's analysis of data from the London Stock Exchange Group from 2018 to 2023 showed.	https://apnews.com/article/shell-drax-greenwashing-pollution-sustainability-2025-01-15	2025/01/15	
Weather tracker: Deadly storms wreak havoc across eastern Australia	Environment-severe weather	Severe thunderstorms have been wreaking havoc across eastern Australia this week, unleashing heavy rain, strong winds, flash flooding and giant hailstones. In some regions there were wind gusts of more than 100mph (160km/h) and strong winds caused operational disruptions at Sydney airport as well as extensive damage nearby, including roofs being torn off buildings. An 80-year-old man died after a tree fell on his car in New South Wales, and several other injuries have been recorded. The storms also triggered lightning strikes, leading to widespread power outages that affected more than 200,000 homes and suspending rail services.	https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/17/weather-tracker	2025/01/17	
People are rushing to install solar panels before Trump becomes president	Environment-solar power	The solar power industry is growing fast, accounting for more than half of all new electricity on the grid last year. But soon President-elect Donald Trump and fellow Republicans in Congress may try to reduce or eliminate government incentives that have driven much of that growth. That has potential customers who want to install solar on their homes worried about the future of an existing 30% federal tax credit. Some are responding by rushing to install solar now, before the credit can be eliminated. Others are deciding solar is too risky with an incoming Trump administration.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/12/hx-s1-5228024/trump-solar-tax-credits	2025/01/14	
Climate change plays key contributing role in LA fires	Environment-wildfires	Climate change — particularly whiplash between two wet winters followed by a bone-dry, unusually hot spring, summer and fall — set the stage for Los Angeles' deadly and devastating fires, scientists say. The firestorm was the product of what climate researchers refer to as "hydroclimate whiplash." Other factors include one of the worst Santa Ana wind events of the past two decades; land use patterns; and sparks set off by power lines, car engines, suspected arsonists and other potential ignition sources.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/12/la-fires-climate-change-drought-extinction	2025/01/13	
Why fire hydrants ran dry as wildfires ravaged Los Angeles	Environment-wildfires	The dry fire hydrants sparked political outrage and illustrated just how unprepared municipal water systems are to combat the sorts of large-scale urban wildfires that have become more frequent with climate change. Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) on Friday ordered an independent investigation into the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP), the nation's largest municipal utility, over hydrants and water supply issues. DWP provides water for more than four million L.A. residents and serves Pacific Palisades, a wealthy area of Los Angeles where much of the destruction took place. "While water supplies from local fire hydrants are not designed to extinguish wildfires over large areas, losing supplies from fire hydrants likely impaired the effort to protect some homes and evacuation corridors," Newsom said. "We need answers to how that happened."	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/11/fire-hydrants-dry-wildfires-los-angeles	2025/01/13	
L.A. fire losses will set records, but that's only the beginning	Environment-wildfires	"It's something that we have definitely started to see as, essentially, these wildland fires move into urban areas and become urban conflagrations," Kearns said. "Our urban water supply is meant to deal more with things like a single house being on fire," she added. Risk experts believe the insured losses from the Los Angeles wildfires will easily top \$20 billion, but in some ways that's only the start of the crisis California now faces. California's insurance market was already struggling as carriers fled the state's many risks. As a result the state insurer of last resort, FAIR Plan, has ballooned to an unsustainable size. California's insurance market was already struggling as carriers fled the state's many risks. As a result the state insurer of last resort, FAIR Plan, has ballooned to an unsustainable size.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/11/los-angeles-fire-insurance-losses-billions	2025/01/13	
Amid the fires, LA is warning some residents the tap water isn't safe. Here's why	Environment-wildfires	The warning is stark: "Do not drink or cook with the tap water ... Do not treat the tap water yourself," typed in all caps and boldface. The alert, issued January 10 by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, also advises people not to take hot baths or long showers. It's directed at residents of the Pacific Palisades and other neighborhoods near the Palisades Fire. High levels of benzene, a chemical linked with cancer, were found in the drinking water after large wildfire disasters in the 2017 Tubbs Fire in Santa Rosa, and the 2018 Camp Fire in Paradise, Calif. Other volatile organic compounds are also known to contaminate tap water after fires. But in a situation when there's a huge demand for water, the pressure in the system drops. Firefighters opening up dry hydrants, people encountering low water pressure at home — these are all signs of depressurization which creates a vacuum effect. It's especially problematic during an active wildfire. The soot and air pollution from burned trees and buildings gets pulled back into the water system through open fire hydrants and water storage tank vents and damaged pipes.	https://www.npr.org/sections/health-news/2025/01/11/hx-s1-52548	2025/01/13	
The most horrific wildfires in recent US history have one key feature in common	Environment-wildfires	"That vacuum pulls contaminants, like gases from combustion, back into the distribution system. And this causes chemical contamination of the distribution system which is very difficult to get rid of," says Jackson Webster, a professor of civil engineering at California State University in Chico. In all three cases, sudden drought had sucked the moisture out of local vegetation, creating abundant kindling for fire to feed on. Then strong winds picked up the embers and carried them into residential areas. "When we look at the recent really bad fires — the Camp Fire, the fires in Hawaii — they all have that thing in common," Grizzo said. "They have a wet period, dry period, heavy winds, very rapid fire spread, a lot of ember transport."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/most-horrific-wildfires-recent-us-0219376	2025/01/13	

Headline	Category	Blurb	URL	Day	Search terms
New, rare fire warning issued in Southern California	Environment-wildfires	Winds during this event will be closer to a typical strong Santa Ana, at 50 mph to 70 mph instead of up to 100 mph as seen last week. But the east-to-west air flow will likely target areas that didn't have such strong winds last week, particularly in Ventura County. "THIS IS A PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS SITUATION (PDS) FOR PORTIONS OF LOS ANGELES AND VENTURA COUNTIES!" the NWS said in all caps. The death toll rose to at least 24, per the L.A. County medical examiner's Sunday evening update. Another 16 people have been reported as missing. Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said during a Sunday briefing. More than 100,000 residents remain under evacuation orders and over 12,000 structures have been destroyed.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/13/california-fires-particularly-dangerous	2025/01/14	
Wildfires death toll rises to 24 as L.A. area faces fresh threats	Environment-wildfires	Much attention on the wildfires has focused on the destruction of homes in wealthy areas and of celebrities, but Altadena's devastation shows how middle-class areas and communities of color were also hit. In the days after the Eaton Fire started, Black residents returned to homes passed down by family members only to see them gone as the fire burned block. The community, where 58% of residents are people of color, also saw many Latino and Asian American residents return to rubble.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/12/la-fires-death-toll-updates	2025/01/14	
L.A. wildfires destroy Black community birthed from Civil Rights era	Environment-wildfires	Landmark California environmental laws will be suspended for wildfire victims seeking to rebuild their homes and businesses, according to an executive order signed Sunday by Gov. Gavin Newsom. Requirements for building permits and reviews in the California Environmental Quality Act and the California Coastal Act — often considered onerous by developers — will be eased for victims of the fires in Pacific Palisades, Altadena and other communities, according to the order.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/13/wildfires-altadena-black-community	2025/01/14	
Newsom suspends landmark environmental laws to ease rebuilding in wildfire zones	Environment-wildfires	When analyzing fuels, forecasters look mainly at the levels of drought, along with any recent rains that may help diminish the effect of longer-term drought. With winds, in southern California at least, it's all about anticipating the Santa Anas — the fierce winds that blow offshore, from the deserts to the coast, bringing loads of dry air with them. Looking ahead to the next week, a range of weather and climate models bring good and bad news for southern California: The good news is there's no sign on the horizon of a windstorm close to last week's Santa Anas, which brought record-setting 100mph wind gusts to Los Angeles.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/newsom-suspends-landmark-environment	2025/01/14	
'Particularly dangerous' wildfire weather returns to California and could linger for months, say forecasts	Environment-wildfires	The bad news is that it looks like Los Angeles's record-dry start to its rainy season will keep getting worse. She's not wrong. Small particles are some of the most health-damaging air pollution, linked to a range of chronic and deadly health issues, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Across Southern California, people are taking precautions as the air quality index — a measure that includes fine particles — reached hazardous levels for some neighborhoods, including Pasadena. ... Dr. Puneet Gupta, assistant medical director for the Los Angeles County Fire Department, said emergency room doctors tell him people with breathing problems are coming in by ambulance, driving themselves and with family.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/13/california-wildfire-weather	2025/01/14	
In Los Angeles, people snap up air filters and wear masks against smoke pollution	Environment-wildfires	Conditions are changing constantly with shifts in wind and wind speed. It's important to take precautions like masking and staying indoors even after the fires are out, because air quality can be poor "for quite some time," Gupta said. But standing tall among the wreckage — almost entirely unscathed — remains Palisades Village, the outdoor mall owned by Rick Caruso, billionaire real estate developer and former Republican mayoral candidate. To protect the high-end shopping center, several private water tankers, equipped with 3,000 gallons of water in each, were brought in to fend off the encroaching blaze, ABC News has reported. ... But some private firefighters offer their services to individuals, a practice that has shocked and infuriated many as its existence has entered the public eye. In 2018, so-called "concierge" firefighters saved Kim Kardashian and Kanye West's Hidden Hills mansion — along with several neighbors' homes — during the Woolsey wildfire, according to reports at the time.	https://apnews.com/article/los-angeles-health-california-wildfire-air-quality	2025/01/14	
Private firefighters spark controversy amid devastating L.A. fires	Environment-wildfires	Using seawater to fight fires can sound like a simple solution — the Pacific Ocean has a seemingly endless supply of water. In emergencies like Southern California is facing, it's often the only quick solution, though the operation can be risky amid ocean swells. Saltwater corrodes firefighting equipment and may harm ecosystems, especially those like the chaparral shrublands around Los Angeles that aren't normally exposed to seawater. Gardeners know that small amounts of salt — added, say, as fertilizer — does not harm plants, but excessive salts can stress and kill plants. Rainwater percolating through the soil is normally clear, but about a month after the first and only 10-hour exposure to salty water in 2022, the soil water turned brown and stayed that way for two years. The brown color comes from carbon-based compounds leached from dead plant material. It's a process similar to making tea.	https://abcnews.go.com/US/private-firefighters-spark-controversy-amid	2025/01/15	
Planes are dumping ocean water to fight the Los Angeles fires. Here's why using saltwater is typically a last resort	Environment-wildfires	The wind and flames that continue to plague Southern California — and the long, costly recovery that lies ahead — have raised new concerns about hosting three major sporting events over the next three years. World Cup matches are scheduled for SoFi Stadium in the summer of 2026. Then comes the 2027 Super Bowl, followed by the 2028 Summer Olympics. "Any city preparing for three massive events has its hands full," said Jules Boykoff, who studies the politics of sport at Pacific University in Oregon. "If these good people in the government are working on the Olympics and the Super Bowl, they are not working on other issues."	https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/planes-are-dumping-ocean-water	2025/01/15	
Can fire-torn L.A. handle the World Cup, Super Bowl and Summer Olympics?	Environment-wildfires	"There have been utterly understandable, natural reactions. You're seeing it in the elected leaders saying that they are going to rebuild again," Alice Hill, a fellow for energy and the environment at the Council on Foreign Relations and former Los Angeles judge, told Yahoo News. "The challenge is the nature of the land underneath our feet is changing. The nature of extreme weather events is changing and those alterations make some areas far less safe than they have been historically." Some climate scientists who have long warned about the consequences posed by rising global temperatures are also questioning the wisdom of simply replacing the destroyed homes as they were before the latest round of wildfires ravaged Southern California. D.C. is preparing for 250,000 ticketed guests and thousands more at the National Mall for the outdoor ceremony — which has caused emergencies from extreme weather in its history. "It's going to be very cold out there for any folks attending the inauguration," Eric Taylor, a forecaster for the National Weather Service in Sterling, Virginia, told Axios. State of play: Air temperatures during the day on Monday are expected to be in the low- to mid-20s, Taylor said.	https://sports.yahoo.com/fire-torn-l-handle-world-110002459.html	2025/01/16	
California moves to quickly rebuild homes destroyed in the L.A. wildfires. Should it?	Environment-wildfires	Wind chill factors by about noon will be between 12°F and 14°F. A powerful Arctic outbreak tied in part to the polar vortex is set to send temperatures by next week tumbling down to as cold as 35 degrees Fahrenheit below average for mid-January, forecasts show. The hazardous cold could endanger public health, stress electricity grids, damage crops and make for a frigid inauguration day. This event is likely to be far colder and more widespread than the Arctic outbreak that occurred earlier this month. Beijing officials prefer that TikTok remains under the control of Chinese parent ByteDance, but have discussed other options including a sale to Musk, Bloomberg reported. "We can't be expected to comment on pure fiction," a TikTok spokesperson said, responding to the report. The company has repeatedly said it will not sell its US operation.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/california-moves-to-quickly-rebuild-homes	2025/01/17	
Abnormally cold weather forecast for Trump's inauguration	Environment-Winter Weather	D.C. is preparing for 250,000 ticketed guests and thousands more at the National Mall for the outdoor ceremony — which has caused emergencies from extreme weather in its history. "It's going to be very cold out there for any folks attending the inauguration," Eric Taylor, a forecaster for the National Weather Service in Sterling, Virginia, told Axios. State of play: Air temperatures during the day on Monday are expected to be in the low- to mid-20s, Taylor said. Wind chill factors by about noon will be between 12°F and 14°F. A powerful Arctic outbreak tied in part to the polar vortex is set to send temperatures by next week tumbling down to as cold as 35 degrees Fahrenheit below average for mid-January, forecasts show. The hazardous cold could endanger public health, stress electricity grids, damage crops and make for a frigid inauguration day. This event is likely to be far colder and more widespread than the Arctic outbreak that occurred earlier this month.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/15/inauguration-day-cold-odd-weather-tr	2025/01/16	
Temperatures to plummet from polar vortex-related Arctic blast	Environment-Winter Weather	Beijing officials prefer that TikTok remains under the control of Chinese parent ByteDance, but have discussed other options including a sale to Musk, Bloomberg reported. "We can't be expected to comment on pure fiction," a TikTok spokesperson said, responding to the report. The company has repeatedly said it will not sell its US operation.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/15/polar-vortex-arctic-blast-us-cold-weather	2025/01/16	
Chinese officials reportedly discuss sale of TikTok in US to Elon Musk	Fuck that guy	Elon Musk is back with another bold claim. This time, he says The Boring Company could build the long-discussed trans-Atlantic tunnel for "1000X less money" than the staggering \$20 trillion price tag being floated around. But before you start dreaming of zooming from New York to London in under an hour, let's unpack what's really going on here.	https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/jan/13/china-tiktok-sale	2025/01/14	
Elon Musk Says His Boring Company Could Dig The \$20 Trillion Tunnel Connecting America With Europe. For '1000X Less Money'	Fuck that guy	Musk, the world's richest person and a top adviser to Trump; Amazon's Bezos; and Mark Zuckerberg of Meta will be prominently placed together near members of Trump's cabinet, according to an NBC News report on Wednesday, continuing their rapid public swing to the right as they cozy up to Trump's Make America Great Again (Maga) power base.	https://finance.yahoo.com/news/elon-musk-says-boring-company-1700	2025/01/15	
Musk, Bezos and Zuckerberg may sit together at Trump inauguration	Fuck that guy	The incoming administration's economic team is a mix of competing interests, including tech industry power brokers and America-first ideologues, creating what The Economist describes as the largest and most diverse group of economic advisers in presidential history. Commerce Secretary nominee Howard Lutnick underscores the administration's protectionist tilt, saying before the election, "You've got to tariff the rest of the world. Keep them the heck out. Bring the manufacturing back here." Even traditionally moderate nominees like Treasury pick Scott Bessent and National Economic Council leader Kevin Hassett have endorsed aggressive tariff policies.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/15/musk-bezos-zucker	2025/01/16	
Elon Musk's Role In Shaping Trumponomics: 'You've Got To Tariff The Rest Of The World'	Fuck that guy	Wray told Pelley that China's government targeting U.S. civilian critical infrastructure was the biggest threat the incoming Trump administration faced. Meanwhile, "the most challenging type of terrorist threat we face" is online radicalization from extremist groups.	https://finance.yahoo.com/news/elon-musk-role-shaping-trumponomics	2025/01/17	
Retiring FBI chief on "60 Minutes" addresses criticism from Trump, Biden	Government Officials	House Republicans have a problem. They want to pass a massive agenda for President-elect Trump, preferably in his first 100 days of office. And they don't want to add to the federal deficit. That looks impossible.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/13/fbi-christopher-wray-60-minutes-int	2025/01/14	
House Republicans face massive debt problem	Government-Debt	Trump's agenda includes an extension of his 2017 tax cuts, with possible plus-ups that include no taxes on tips and the possible elimination of a ceiling on state and local tax deductions. It also includes energy reform and changes to the border and rules on immigration.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/house-republicans-face-massive-debt-23	2025/01/13	
Safety advocates fear Tesla will face less accountability for car crashes under Trump	Health and safety	This is yet another case where the lack of driver engagement is directly responsible for the crash, said Missy Cummings, a professor of robotics and engineering at George Mason University, who reviewed documents from the crash investigation at NHTSA's request. Car companies including Tesla are required to report the details of crashes involving advanced driver-assistance systems, like the one Hunter was using. Regulators and safety advocates insist the reporting requirement is crucial to understanding how well the technology is working — and is necessary to hold carmakers accountable for deaths and injuries when the technology fails. But safety advocates fear that this requirement will be scrapped by the incoming Trump administration, along with other federal investigations into Tesla and its advanced driving systems.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/15/hx-s1-5234124/tesla-crash-reporting-fs	2025/01/15	

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SCOTUS to review ACA preventive services mandate	Health- aca	The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to review a challenge to the Affordable Care Act's requirement that insurers cover certain recommended preventive services at no cost. Eliminating the requirement could limit access to services like cancer screenings, preventive medications for heart disease, behavioral health counseling and HIV drugs known as PrEP. The timing of the high court review puts the legal defense of the ACA mandate in the hands of the incoming Trump administration.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/11/scotus-obamacare-preventive-services	2025/01/13	
		Trump and his picks to helm federal health agencies have largely been silent on bird flu. The messaging so far — and the track record of those Trump has chosen to oversee a potential bird flu crisis — is “worrisome,” says Dr. Andrew Pavia, professor of medicine at the University of Utah who’s worked on influenza pandemic preparedness for more than two decades.			
		Trump’s choice to lead the Department of Health and Human Services, Robert F Kennedy Jr., has an extensive history of making inaccurate and misleading statements on vaccines and infectious diseases. He’s a lawyer who for years led an advocacy group that is a major player in the anti-vaccine movement, promoting the long-debunked idea that vaccines lead to autism, among other false claims.			
		... He’s also made specific comments undermining trust in the bird flu vaccines. In an online post last summer, he claimed there’s “evidence” the licensed shots for the national stockpile will work and that they “appear dangerous.”			
		And he suggested in another post that “someone” might bioengineer a dangerous form of the virus to profit off the vaccine.			
		Scientists who study the vaccines are deeply troubled by these statements.			
		“They are false, baseless and inaccurate,” says Dr. Paul Offit, director of the Vaccine Education Center at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.			
How would RFK Jr. handle bird flu? His record on vaccines has experts on edge	Health- Bird flu	Kennedy has also discussed having the National Institutes of Health take a break from infectious disease research for eight years, and replacing hundreds of employees there.	https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/01/16/nx-s1-5254	2025/01/17	
Chicago zoo sees ‘beloved’ seal and baby flamingo die from bird flu as virus mutates	Health- Bird flu	As bird flu virus continues to spread in people, a Chicago zoo announced this week that two of its animals had died from infection.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/chicago-zoo-seal-flamingo-die	2025/01/17	
Cancer deaths are declining, but diagnoses are rising, especially among younger women	Health- Cancer	A study released Thursday points to a mixed and rapidly shifting picture in cancer trends. On the one hand, the American Cancer Society’s annual survey found that mortality from the disease declined rapidly, by 34%, between 1991 and 2022. But at the same time, for reasons little understood, more young and middle aged women are getting the disease.	https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/01/16/nx-s1-5262	2025/01/17	
Drugmakers hiked prices for hundreds of drugs in early January	Health- Costs	Drugmakers raised the list prices on 575 name-brand drugs in just the first two days of the new year, according to drug price research firm 46brooklyn. Drugs for diabetes, HIV, cancer saw price hikes, among others. For years a 10% annual price hike was fairly normal, but they’ve started coming down in recent years. This year’s median price hike so far is only 4%, says Antonio Ciaccia, CEO of 46brooklyn.	https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/01/14/nx-s1-5250	2025/01/15	
		According to Dr. Dawn Nott, a pediatric infectious disease physician at Oregon Health and Science University, many of the most common COVID symptoms are the ones we all know well at this point, like cough and shortness of breath. You may also have a fever, chills, congestion, runny nose, sore throat and body aches, Snyder said.			
The Most Common COVID Symptoms Doctors Are Seeing In Winter 2025	Health- Covid	“I think the one thing we’re not seeing is... that loss of smell or taste that people often talked about early in the pandemic,” Nott explained. These symptoms haven’t been prevalent since early 2022 when the omicron variant came around, she added.	https://www.huffpost.com/entry/covid-symptoms-winter-2025_1_67802c	2025/01/15	
Chemicals in sewage sludge fertilizer used on farms pose cancer risk, EPA says	Health- EPA	Harmful chemicals in sewage sludge spread on pasture as fertilizer pose a risk to people who regularly consume milk, beef and other products from those farms, in some cases raising cancer risk “several orders of magnitude” above what the Environmental Protection Agency considers acceptable, federal officials announced on Tuesday.	https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/14/pfas-sewage-fertilizer	2025/01/15	
		One way to protect yourself from all viruses: Wash your hands Seriously. Rigorous and frequent handwashing — with soap! — is crucial to reduce the spread of norovirus, colds, flu and COVID-19. This is especially true after using the bathroom and eating or preparing food, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says.			
Cold and flu season is here to start 2025. But simple steps can help protect you and your family	Health- Flu	Don’t speed through it, either. Count to 20, slowly, while you scrub away. If you don’t have access to soap and water, try a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol — though that isn’t enough to wipe out norovirus.	https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/cold-flu-covid-19	2025/01/14	
		But when his leg needed replacing last January after about five years of everyday use, his new marketplace health plan wouldn’t authorize it. The roughly \$50,000 leg with the electronically controlled knee wasn’t medically necessary, the insurer said, even though Colorado law leaves that determination up to the patient’s doctor, and his has prescribed a version of that leg for many years, starting when he had employer-sponsored coverage.			
Health insurers limit coverage of prosthetic limbs, questioning their medical necessity	Health- Insurance	People who need surgery to replace a joint typically don’t encounter similar coverage roadblocks. In 2021, 1.1 million knee or hip joint replacements were performed in United States hospitals and hospital-owned ambulatory facilities, according to the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, or AHRQ. The median price for a total hip or knee replacement without complications at top orthopedic hospitals was just over \$68,000 in 2020, according to one analysis, though health plans often negotiate lower rates.	https://www.cnn.com/2025/01/08/health/health-insurers-prosthetic-limbs	2025/01/15	
		In his first public comments since the Dec. 4 shooting of United Healthcare chief executive Brian Thompson, United HealthGroup chief executive Andrew Witty expressed condolences for “the murder of our friend” before declaring, “The health system needs to function better.”			
UnitedHealth CEO admits 3 major issues with the health system in first public comments since executive’s murder	Health- Insurance	... And yet, he added, “the health system needs to function better,” suggesting that while the various “program structures” are better than a one-size-fits-all approach, the system “needs to be less confusing, less complex and less costly.”	https://finance.yahoo.com/news/united-health-ceo-admits-3-major-1935	2025/01/17	
		Entire neighborhoods in Southern California have been destroyed by deadly wildfires, displacing communities that don’t know what — if anything — they’ll have to return to. Researchers have linked wildfires to long-lasting anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder in survivors, in addition to the well-documented physical toll.			
The psychological toll of California’s catastrophic fires	Health- Mental health	... People exposed to California’s deadliest wildfire, the 2018 Camp Fire, showed greater chronic symptoms of PTSD, anxiety and depression, according to research published in 2023. This ability to infect, spread between, and kill such a wide range of creatures has prompted some scientists to call HSN1 a “panzootic”; an epidemic that leaps species barriers and can devastate diverse animal populations, posing a threat to humans too. As shrinking habitats, biodiversity loss and intensified farming create perfect incubators for infectious diseases to jump from one species to another, some scientists say panzootics could become one of the era’s defining threats to human health and security.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/12/california-wildfires-loss-mental-health	2025/01/13	
Age of the panzootic: scientists warn of more devastating diseases jumping between species	Health- panzootic	The impacts on biodiversity can be huge. Bird flu has led to “catastrophic” declines in seabird populations, with millions of wild birds killed. More than 20,000 South American sea lions have died in Chile and Peru and an estimated 17,000 southern elephant seal pups have died in Argentina — equivalent to 96% of all pups born in the country in 2023.	https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/15/age-of-the-panzootic	2025/01/15	
Brain robots the size of rice offer neurosurgery revolution	Health- Technology	Researchers have built a tiny robot capable of navigating through a human brain, which they claim could revolutionise the diagnosis and treatment of neurological conditions. Paris-based startup Robeauté aims to begin human trials of its microbot next year, having just raised £27.2 million (£23 million) to further advance and test the technology.	https://www.independent.co.uk/uk/tech/brain-robot-neurosurgery-robeaute	2025/01/16	
		On the outside, it looks red and splotchy. “The rash you see on a person’s exterior is also happening throughout their body,” Salzer says. “So it’s a multisystem organ failure that happens.”			
		Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever can quickly progress into a severe illness that requires intensive care or results in death; those who go untreated can die within eight days of showing symptoms, he says.			
		Kids are susceptible to getting infected and account for around 30% of the fatalities on Arizona tribal lands, according to CDC data. Traeger says it’s related to behavior: Young children spend time outside in yards that dogs pass through and may even play with the pups.			
		... But Pike — like many others here — knows that the thousands of dogs roaming freely between the desert landscape and people’s homes serve as a superhighway for ticks. “The line is not to let them near your home or near your babies or your children, because of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever,” she says. “We do get cases, and we’ve lost community members to it.”			
On Apache lands, progress in a long war against ticks and the disease they spread	Health- Ticks	The tribe’s prevention efforts, along with raised awareness and vigilance among community members and medical practitioners, have yielded good results. For at least five years, nobody has died from Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever on this reservation, or the ones around it, according to data collected by health authorities.	https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/01/15/nx-s1-5256	2025/01/16	
		Measles is back in the US — and it’s spreading. More than 100 cases across 14 states and Washington DC have been confirmed by US health officials since an outbreak began at Disneyland last December. With a majority of those infections in unvaccinated people, widespread blame from Washington to the rest of the world — has fallen on parents who chose not to vaccinate their children.			
		Part of the problem, according to Dr Elizabeth Edwards, professor of pediatrics and director of the Vanderbilt Vaccine Research Program, is just that: vaccination is understood by many as an individual choice, when science makes clear that the choice — to vaccinate or not to vaccinate — can affect an entire community.			
Watch how the measles outbreak spreads when kids get vaccinated — and when they don’t	Health- Vaccines	But California remains home to communities with some of the highest vaccination opt-out rates in the country. Santa Cruz County, for example, has a personal belief exemption rate of 9.35%, nearly three times the state average. Some California school districts see exemption rates higher than 10%. That’s enough to put a dent in herd immunity and fuel local outbreaks of measles. Experts recommend that 92-95% of Americans be vaccinated against measles to protect everyone in the community, especially those who can’t get the shot: babies under one year old, people born before the measles vaccine was introduced in 1963 and have never had measles themselves, and immunocompromised kids and adults like Rhett Krawitt, a young boy who recently went through chemotherapy.	https://www.theguardian.com/society/ng-interactive/2015/feb/05/sp-wa	2025/01/13	

Headline	Category	Blurb	URL	Day	Search terms
Respiratory illnesses are up nationwide. Here are the COVID, flu and RSV hotspots	Health- Winter ick	If it feels like everyone around you is fighting off a cold or recovering from the flu, it may be because respiratory illnesses are running rampant in most of the United States, and cases are only increasing. When broken down by state, most of the country is experiencing elevated respiratory illness, including a few states with "very high" ratings that act as national hotspots, CDC data shows. However, compared to influenza and RSV, or respiratory syncytial virus, cases of COVID-19 are considered "low" by the CDC. Flu cases were labeled as "high," and RSV cases were categorized as "very high." All three respiratory cases have been increasing in recent weeks, CDC data shows. In a release CDRAP said "currents COVID response efforts are constrained by inconsistent disease surveillance among states and limited resources that would be insufficient if a spillover event were to occur." In response to the disease, which is always fatal in deer, the report makes nine recommendations based on vulnerabilities identified by its organizers. They include improving areas of research, funding, surveillance, and public and animal health care. Osterholm warned spillover might already be taking place. "We have some limited data now suggesting that feral pigs might be infected. Well, if they can get infected, surely as possible domestic swine could also become infected," he said. "What would that do to the swine market? What would that do to the cattle market? These are huge issues."	https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/national/article298476	2025/01/15	
U of M researchers examine preparedness for possibility of CWD jump to humans	Health- Zombie Deer	Unlike other foods where cooking kills off foodborne pathogens making it safe to eat, cooking meat infected with CWD concentrates the disease making it worse. Ninety-two years ago this month, on Monday morning, January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler was appointed the 15th chancellor of the Weimar Republic. In one of the most astonishing political transformations in the history of democracy, Hitler set about destroying a constitutional republic through constitutional means. What follows is a step-by-step account of how Hitler systematically disabled and then dismantled his country's democratic structures and processes in less than two months' time—specifically, one month, three weeks, two days, eight hours, and 40 minutes. The minutes, as we will see, mattered.	https://www.mprnews.org/story/2025/01/12/u-of-m-researchers-examin	2025/01/15	
How Hitler Dismantled a Democracy in 53 Days	History	Emergency workers and crews with the Colonial Pipeline responded to a potential gasoline release in Paulding County on Tuesday. The incident was reported near the Peg Cole Bridge Trail in Villa Rica, and SKYFOX 5 captured aerial footage of the site shortly after 3 p.m.	https://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/colonial-pipeline-responds-possib	2025/01/16	
Update: Colonial Pipeline says gasoline leak not expected to be fixed until Jan. 17	Infrastructure	The Colonial Pipeline has temporarily shut its main gasoline line — America's largest fuel pipeline — because of leak in Georgia, the pipeline's operator and local officials said.			
Colonial Pipeline shuts vital gasoline pipeline because of a leak in Georgia	Infrastructure	The Colonial Pipeline is one of the most important pieces of energy infrastructure in the United States, providing nearly half the gasoline and diesel fuel consumed by the East Coast. The impacted pipeline, Line 1, is a vital part of the biggest pipeline system in the United States and carries 1.5 million barrels of fuel per day from Texas into North Carolina. Some of the choices are not terribly surprising. Climate change threatens Africa's Swahili Coast and 66 historic lighthouses on the coast of Maine. A natural disaster befell the historic city of Antakya in Turkey, which was badly damaged by earthquakes in 2023. Human conflict makes up another category on the WMF list, and the creamy white modernist building known as Teacher's House in Kyiv, a symbol of Ukrainian independence, falls under this umbrella. After a Russian missile blast shattered its windows, doors and glass dome in 2022, the WMF enlisted the U.S. State Department to help restore the building, with assistance from local government agencies. Another war-ravaged place on the list is Gaza. The area has been under intense siege by Israel's military since Oct. 7, 2023 — the day Hamas conducted an armed incursion into southern Israel. Other places on the list are endangered by overtourism. Ancient Buddhist grottoes nestled in the mountains of Majishan and Yungang, China, have seen a spike in visitors, with 3 million visiting in 2023 compared to 2 million in 2019. The dramatic increase, according to the South China Morning Post, can be partly attributed to the shrimps' depictions in a popular video game called Black Myth: Wukong. But one of this year's endangered sites has been visited by only about a dozen people: the moon.	https://www.cnn.com/2025/01/14/business/colonial-pipeline-potential-le	2025/01/16	
Gaza and the moon make biennial most-endangered list	International	President-elect Trump's Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff arrived in Israel on Saturday to push for a Gaza hostage and ceasefire deal, Israeli officials said.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/15/tx-s1-5235391/most-endangered-sites	2025/01/16	
Trump envoy presses for Gaza ceasefire deal before Jan. 20 in Netanyahu meeting	International Relations	Witkoff's traveled to Israel from Qatar as part of a last-minute effort by Trump to press all parties involved in the negotiations to conclude the deal before Jan. 20.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/11/trumps-israel-gaza-deal-jan-20-witk	2025/01/13	
Escalating armed conflict is most urgent threat for world in 2025, say global leaders	International Relations	Trump has threatened there would be "hell to pay in the Middle East" if Hamas didn't release the hostages by the time he is inaugurated.	https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/15/escalating-armed-c	2025/01/15	
Trump's Greenland bid stirs debate in China about what to do with Taiwan	International Relations	Global leaders have said that escalating armed conflict is the most urgent threat in 2025 but the climate emergency is expected to cause the greatest concern over the next decade, according to the World Economic Forum.	https://www.reuters.com/world/china/trumps-greenland-bid-stirs-debate	2025/01/16	
Greenland must make its own choice on independence, Danish PM tells Trump in call	International Relations	For years, the U.S. government has urged China to show "restraint" in pushing its claim on Taiwan and to drop military threats to bring the democratically governed island under its control.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/15/denmark-greenland-trump-call	2025/01/16	
Biden's Cuba bombshell shocks Florida Democrats	International-Cuba	Now - some Chinese commentators say - the power of that long-held U.S. message has been undermined by the threats by U.S. President-elect Donald Trump to take control of Greenland and the Panama Canal, by force if necessary. Trump takes office on Jan. 20.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/15/biden-cuba-terrorism-florida-democr	2025/01/15	
Cuba starts freeing prisoners a day after the US said it would lift terror designation	International-Cuba	Greenland must make its own decisions about independence from Denmark, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen told President-elect Trump in a Wednesday phone call.	https://apnews.com/article/cuba-prisoners-released-us-terrorism-list-5fb	2025/01/16	
Mediators herald Gaza ceasefire and hostage deal, Israel says final details are in flux	International-Israel	Greenland views itself as an autonomous country that is part of the Kingdom of Denmark, and it has the option of declaring its independence under the 2009 Greenland Self-Government Act.	https://apnews.com/article/gaza-israel-hamas-ceasefire-334ecc420f6c	2025/01/16	
Gaza hostage and ceasefire deal officially signed in Doha	International-Israel	Denmark has sent Trump private messages expressing willingness to discuss boosting security in Greenland or increasing the U.S. military presence on the island, Axios previously reported.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/17/gaza-israel-ceasefire-hostage-deal	2025/01/17	
Russian state TV floats splitting Greenland with Trump	International-Russia	President Biden's last-minute executive order Tuesday to undo sanctions on Cuba and delist the socialist nation as a terrorism sponsor is outraging already dispirited Florida Democrats.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/russia-a	2025/01/15	
South Korea's impeached president arrested	International-South Korea	Cuba started releasing some prisoners Wednesday as part of talks with the Vatican, a day after President Joe Biden's administration announced his intent to lift the U.S. designation of the island nation as a state sponsor of terrorism.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/15/south-korea-yoon-suk-yeol-arrest-de	2025/01/15	
Chinese university applies for undersea cable cutter patent	International-suspicious	More than a dozen people who were convicted of different crimes — and some of them were arrested after taking part in the historic 2021 protests — were released during the day, according to Cuban civil groups following the cases of detainees on the island.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/chinese-university-applies-undersea-cabl	2025/01/14	
When American allies' undersea cables are severed, suspicion falls on Russia and China	International-suspicious	The three-phase ceasefire deal promises the release of dozens of hostages held by militants in Gaza and hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in Israel, and it will allow hundreds of thousands of people displaced in Gaza to return to what remains of their homes. It would also flood desperately needed humanitarian aid into the territory ravaged by 15 months of war, mediators say.	https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/undersea-cables-are-cut-suspic	2025/01/15	
Mysterious airstrip appears on a Yemeni island as Houthis rebel attacks threaten region	International-Yemen	The deal between Israel and Hamas to release hostages being held in Gaza and begin a ceasefire was officially signed by negotiators in Doha on Thursday, according to two sources familiar with the issue. But the Israeli government isn't expected to vote on it until Saturday night.	https://apnews.com/article/yemen-island-airstrip-houthis-israel-hamas-y	2025/01/17	
How to politicize the truth on Facebook, Instagram, and Wikipedia	Misinformation	The delay in the vote will postpone the start of the ceasefire and the release of the first three hostages from Sunday to at least Monday, according to Israeli officials.	https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/jan/14/facebook-instagram	2025/01/15	
Russia tried to use the LA wildfires to spread anti-Ukraine propaganda	Misinformation	Russian state media pundits have mullied the possibility of splitting Greenland with Donald Trump, as the President-elect continues to posture about acquiring the Danish territory.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/16/tx-s1-5256942/los-angeles-california-fi	2025/01/17	

Headline	Category	Blurb	URL	Day	Search terms
Menopause may accelerate the progression of MS: Study	Personal Interest	For women with multiple sclerosis (MS), disability starts to worsen significantly faster after menopause, according to a new study. ... "The study shows that menopause represents a unique factor in MS progression, even when we take into consideration the effects of aging," Riley Bove, MD, study co-author at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), said in a press release. More than 20 members made almost double the S&P500 average gain of 24.9 percent last year. The top five performers — Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC), Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Roger Williams (R-TX), Morgan McGarvey (D-KY) — increased the value of their portfolio value by more than 100 percent, according to a new report. Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who has become a lightning rod for anger over lawmakers trading in stocks in recent years and has, according to the report, "an almost cult-like following for her financial disclosures," saw the value of her household's portfolio rise by 71 percent. The report comes as several bipartisan measures aimed at banning the trading of stocks of individual companies by members of Congress appear to have stalled, despite overwhelming public support. A total of 11 bills have been proposed by lawmakers since 2022, but none have made it to a vote.	https://multiplesclerosisnews.com/news-posts/2025/01/14/ms-dis	2025/01/15	
Dozens of Congress members outperformed the stock market in 2024. Here's who gained the most - and why	Political Cesspool	Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) has made it abundantly clear that she didn't study atmospheric sciences in college, launching an unhinged suggestion that officials could end the Los Angeles wildfires by manipulating the weather. "Why don't they use geoeengineering like cloud seeding to bring rain down on the wildfires in California?" the Republican asked Sunday in a post on X. "They know how to do it."	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/congre	2025/01/13	
Marjorie Taylor Greene Launches Unhinged Call for Officials to Manipulate the Weather to Stop L.A. Wildfires	Political Cesspool	If there even was an opportunity to attempt cloud seeding at a scale that would impact the wildfires, it would require storms or cloud systems to seed. There are currently no significant storms or cloud systems in the area.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/marjorie-taylor-greene-launches-unhinge	2025/01/13	
Republicans: We Want 'Strings Attached' to California Fire Aid	Political Cesspool	Two Republican senators have said they expect the new Republican-led Congress to ask for a laundry list of requirements to be met before allocating disaster aid to authorities in wildfire-ravaged Los Angeles. Neither, however, were clear on what specific actions local leaders may need to take to unlock the desperately needed funding.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/republicans-want-strings-attached-califor	2025/01/14	
Tuberville says California doesn't 'deserve' funding after wildfires unless it makes 'some changes'	Political Cesspool	"If you go to California, you run into a lot of Republicans, a lot of good people, and I hate it for them, but they are just overwhelmed by, by these inner-city woke policies with the people that vote for them," Tuberville said on Newmax's "The Chris Salcedo Show," in a clip highlighted by Mediate. "And it ... you know, I don't mind sending them some money. But unless they show that they're [going to] change their ways and get back to building dams and storing water, doing the — the maintenance with the brush and the trees and everything that everybody else does in the country, and they refuse to do it, they don't deserve anything, to be honest with you, unless they show us they're [going to] make some changes," he added.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/tuberville-says-california-doesn-t-001709	2025/01/14	
House barrels toward fight over placing conditions on California fire aid	Political Cesspool	Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) on Monday threw his support behind placing stipulations on aid designed to help California recover from historically devastating wildfires, while accusing local officials of water resource and forest mismanagement. He re-upped that position Tuesday, and many Republicans — including several in the Golden State — are echoing that sentiment. The package aims to "stop the Woke agenda" at the University of Wyoming by prohibiting diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs, cutting residential property taxes, invalidating drivers' licenses issued to undocumented immigrants by other states, enacting stricter proof of residency and citizenship for prospective voters, and prohibiting "woke investment strategies" with state funds. The power shift has brought national attention to Wyoming, where over a third of house members will be freshman lawmakers. Speaker of the House and Freedom caucus member Chip Neiman views the package as the will of Wyoming voters — and reflective of a changing, more conservative America.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/house-barrels-toward-fight-over-2259166	2025/01/15	
American conservatism's wild frontier: the rise of Wyoming's Freedom caucus	Political Cesspool	Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-S.D.) has a "fairly lengthy list" of last-minute Biden regulations that Republicans may try to undo in the coming weeks, he told Axios.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/14/wyoming-freedom-c	2025/01/15	
Senate GOP plots to erase Biden's final moves	Political Cesspool	The Congressional Review Act (CRA) gives Congress until mid-May to reverse what Republicans are calling the "midnight rules" of the Biden administration. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) will kick things off next week by introducing three resolutions to erase Biden moves on crypto, energy and internet access. Extending Trump's 2017 tax law would add \$4.6 trillion to the national debt over the next decade, according to the Congressional Budget Office, lawmakers' nonpartisan bookkeeper. But now some leading GOP tax writers are arguing that extending the law wouldn't add to the nation's \$36.2 trillion debt at all. Their proposal, though arcane, is about more than accounting. In 2017, Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act lowered rates for businesses and individuals in every income bracket, though benefits were concentrated among the highest earners. The business tax cuts are permanent already, but the individual cuts expire at the end of this year, meaning most Americans will face a major tax hike next year unless Congress passes new legislation. Trump also promised new policies on the campaign trail, including ending federal taxes on tips and overtime wages. Using a process called "budget reconciliation," the GOP could dodge a Democratic filibuster in the Senate. But for that to work, Republicans - who will govern with slim margins in both chambers of Congress - must agree on how much they're willing to add to the national debt. Typically, lawmakers would look for spending cuts to offset the revenue lost by extending the cuts. House Budget Committee Chair Jodey Arrington (R-Texas) discussed a "menu" of fiscal policy choices at a GOP policy lunch last week. The options included steep cuts to food stamp programs, capping Medicare payments and reversing President Joe Biden's climate investments, among other policies.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/16/senate-congressional-review-act-bid	2025/01/16	
Republicans may try budget math that doesn't count Trump tax cuts	Political Cesspool	Pam Bondi, Donald Trump's pick for attorney general, sought to reassure Democratic senators Wednesday that her Justice Department would not prosecute anyone for political purposes but also refused to rule out the potential for investigations into adversaries of the Republican president-elect. ... "What would you do if your career DOJ prosecutors came to you with a case to prosecute, grounded in the facts and law, but the White House directs you to drop the case?" asked Sen. Chris Coons, a Delaware Democrat. "Senator," Bondi replied, "if I thought that would happen, I would not be sitting here today. That will not happen."	https://apnews.com/article/trump-justice-department-bondi-garland-01e	2025/01/16	
Bondi says she won't play politics as attorney general but doesn't rule out probes of Trump foes	Political Cesspool	Former Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell's (R-Ky.) conspicuous silence is starting to spook Tulsi Gabbard's team. President-elect Trump Trump's transition thinks Gabbard, the nominee for director of national intelligence, can get confirmed even with a "no" vote from McConnell. But his public opposition — if it materializes — could open the door to other GOP defectors. Gabbard's team isn't banking on McConnell's vote, sources tell Axios.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/17/mcconnell-gabbard-senate-confir	2025/01/17	
Scoop: Trump team sweats McConnell's vote on Tulsi Gabbard	Political Cesspool	Why it matters: Johnson is assembling his team to help implement President-elect Trump's sweeping agenda, which includes reform of the intelligence agencies.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/16/mike-johnson-rick-crawford-house-ir	2025/01/17	
Johnson picks Rick Crawford to chair House Intelligence Committee	Political Cesspool	A Georgia state senator who was previously banned from the state House chamber was arrested Thursday when he tried to enter the chamber for the governor's state of the state speech and got into a shoving match with House employees. ... Burns banned Moore from the House chamber last year after Moore denounced late House Speaker David Ralston on a day when Ralston was being honored and his relatives were watching. In a speech, Moore called Ralston "one of the most corrupt Georgia leaders we'll ever see" over allegations that Ralston improperly delayed court cases he handled as a lawyer. Burns called Moore's remarks "vile" when he announced the ban, saying it would remain until Moore apologized.	https://apnews.com/article/cotton-moore-georgia-senator-arrested-hou	2025/01/17	
Georgia senator arrested after he tried to defy a ban on entering the House chamber	Political Cesspool	Special counsel Jack Smith resigned just days before President-elect Trump is set to take over the presidency, multiple outlets reported Saturday. Smith, who was appointed by Attorney General Merrick Garland in Nov. 2022, spearheaded two federal criminal cases against Trump, but the future of both cases was imperiled by Trump's election victory.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/11/special-counsel-jack-smith-resign-tr	2025/01/13	
Special counsel Jack Smith resigns ahead of Trump inauguration	Politics	However, a federal appeals court said this week that Smith's final report on his investigations into Trump can be released despite the president-elect's strenuous objections.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/11/special-counsel-jack-smith-resign-tr	2025/01/13	
DeSantis picks Florida AG Ashley Moody to fill Rubio's Senate seat	Politics- Florida	Moody is a DeSantis and Donald Trump loyalist. Her appointment will set off a chain-reaction of office-seeking and Florida political drama heading into 2026. Picking Moody for Senate clears the way for DeSantis to name his chief of staff, James Uthmeier, to replace her as AG, according to the source who said that "it was always Ashley. And James is the obvious pick to replace her." For many Americans — especially those White Americans who believed in the many lies of America's inherent greatness and goodness, and that authoritarianism and fascism are something "over there" and not something with centuries of history in the United States in the form of such regimes as American Apartheid and Jim Crow, White on Black chattel slavery and other great crimes against nonwhite people — Trump's return to power is shocking, unbelievable and a type of epistemic crisis. In retrospect, we all should have been more keenly aware of the fact that we are a 50/50 nation in modern presidential elections. The country is split down the middle. Not only does it make it "easier" or more "necessary" to cheat with the Electoral College but places our democracy and elections in severe jeopardy. Whoever the nominee of each party, and no matter their crimes, indictments, sins, lies, theft, treason, or apparent mental illness, they are a coin toss from the presidency from the get-go. Trump and his administration and agents and other enablers will crash the Biden economy — one of the best in decades — to "rebuild" it again — except they will only keep the first half of the promise. There will be no rebuilding. There will only be mass looting of our tax dollars, greasing of palms, favors to help the rich get richer, the poor get poorer and the destruction of the middle class, further ensuring we cannot fight back. ... I'm concerned that Republicans will implement Project 2025 and that it is going to trigger a recession similar to that of the early 1980s. I'm also bracing myself for having the news cycle revolve around Trump again. It's mentally exhausting to follow and track the administration with the non-stop drama.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/16/ashley-moody-desantis-pick-florida	2025/01/17	
"There will be no rebuilding": Bracing America for the implementation of Project 2025	Project 2025	https://www.yahoo.com/news/no-rebuilding-bracing-america-implement	2025/01/16		

Headline	Category	Blurb	URL	Day	Search terms
House Republicans pass bill to ban trans women and girls from school sports	Rainbow threats	House Republicans pushed through sweeping legislation on Tuesday to block transgender women and girls from school sports, escalating a fierce culture-war battle that puts federal education dollars on the line. Democratic states across the country are embarking on a pioneering effort to increase access to abortion by teaching people who are not doctors to offer and perform the procedure. In Washington state, a first-of-its-kind pilot program called the Pharmacist Abortion Access Project announced this week that it trained 10 pharmacists to prescribe abortion pills; so far, they have prescribed abortions to 43 people. With Roe v Wade gone and abortion now all but eliminated in a dozen or so states, the project is the latest attempt to expand access to the procedure in the parts of the country that still allow it. Connecticut and Delaware have in recent years passed legislation to permit physician assistants, midwives and some nurses to perform abortions, while Oregon, Maryland and Illinois are now devoting millions of state dollars to programs that train similar professions in the procedure. "There hasn't been any real accountability when it comes to abortion pill access, so we are going to try several different approaches to give Texans more tools to end this deadly trend," said John Seago, president of Texas Right to Life. Texas was the first state in the US to ban most abortions in recent years, passing a six-week ban that went into effect months before the fall of Roe v Wade. Following the Dobbs decision that overturned Roe, the state enacted a total ban that threatens doctors with up to life in prison. Texas often serves as a laboratory for anti-abortion bills and strategies that other Republican-led states later replicate.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/14/house-republicans-t	2025/01/15	
Democratic states train non-doctors on providing abortions to expand US access	Reproductive Rights	With Roe v Wade gone and abortion now all but eliminated in a dozen or so states, the project is the latest attempt to expand access to the procedure in the parts of the country that still allow it. Connecticut and Delaware have in recent years passed legislation to permit physician assistants, midwives and some nurses to perform abortions, while Oregon, Maryland and Illinois are now devoting millions of state dollars to programs that train similar professions in the procedure. "There hasn't been any real accountability when it comes to abortion pill access, so we are going to try several different approaches to give Texans more tools to end this deadly trend," said John Seago, president of Texas Right to Life. Texas was the first state in the US to ban most abortions in recent years, passing a six-week ban that went into effect months before the fall of Roe v Wade. Following the Dobbs decision that overturned Roe, the state enacted a total ban that threatens doctors with up to life in prison. Texas often serves as a laboratory for anti-abortion bills and strategies that other Republican-led states later replicate.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/13/abortion-access-he	2025/01/14	
Texas lawmakers take aim at abortion pills in new legislative session	Reproductive Rights	With Roe v Wade gone and abortion now all but eliminated in a dozen or so states, the project is the latest attempt to expand access to the procedure in the parts of the country that still allow it. Connecticut and Delaware have in recent years passed legislation to permit physician assistants, midwives and some nurses to perform abortions, while Oregon, Maryland and Illinois are now devoting millions of state dollars to programs that train similar professions in the procedure. "There hasn't been any real accountability when it comes to abortion pill access, so we are going to try several different approaches to give Texans more tools to end this deadly trend," said John Seago, president of Texas Right to Life. Texas was the first state in the US to ban most abortions in recent years, passing a six-week ban that went into effect months before the fall of Roe v Wade. Following the Dobbs decision that overturned Roe, the state enacted a total ban that threatens doctors with up to life in prison. Texas often serves as a laboratory for anti-abortion bills and strategies that other Republican-led states later replicate.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/14/texas-anti-abortion-n	2025/01/15	
Ohio woman sues hospital and police after she was arrested over miscarriage	Reproductive Rights	Brittany Watts, an Ohio woman who was charged with abuse of a corpse after having a miscarriage, has filed a federal lawsuit accusing some of the medical professionals who treated her of conspiring with a police officer to fabricate the criminal case against her. Australia had a long history of policing women's bodies, cultural expert Lauren Rosewarne said, and summertime conversations about appropriate swimwear provide "a legitimacy to looking at women in small bathing suits". "The undercurrent of these stories is that somehow women are doing something with their bodies to distract men in ways that make men feel as though they're being tempted, and it's up to women to sort themselves out ... Somehow, the responsibility is on women not to stir desires in men, because then men might act badly and be punished, so we have to put the responsibility of morality on to women's shoulders". "Not everything is sexual just because you see it as such," she said.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/16/brittany-watts-lawsu	2025/01/17	
Greater Sydney council bans 'revealing swimwear', sparking debate about double standards	Sexism	With the dock ticking on a potential TikTok ban in the U.S., scores of Americans are flocking to a surprising alternative: a popular Chinese social media platform called Xiaohongshu, or RedNote in English. A person close to RedNote told Reuters that more than 700,000 new users joined in just two days. The New York Times reported that more than 100,000 people joined a live group chat hosted by a user named TikTok Refugee Club on Tuesday. RedNote's new American users are confronting the potentially taboo topics of privacy and censorship head-on. Users — from both countries — are joking about finally meeting their "Chinese spies" and willingly handing over data (including the aforementioned "cat tax"). The New York Times reports that in a group chat this week viewed more than 30,000 times, "participants discussed censorship and shared tips in the comments on how to avoid being banned from the platform for bringing up politically sensitive topics."	https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/jan/15/greater-sydne	2025/01/15	
What to know about RedNote, the Chinese app that American TikTokkers are flooding	Social Media	Duolingo, the language learning app, tweeted on Wednesday that it has seen a whopping 216% increase in Mandarin learners in the U.S. compared to this time last year — adding that people "learning Mandarin out of spite" are "not alone." A newly uncovered document reveals that the US supreme court sought to beef up judicial protection, while also reducing public scrutiny of the court's doings, before the court's controversial decision to overturn Roe v Wade. Crucially, the MOA mandates that the court would maintain "exclusive legal custody and control" of all security-related records, even those in USNIS possession. That means those records would be explicitly excluded from Freedom of Information Act (Foia) requirements, and hidden from public view.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/15/hx-s1-5260742/tiktok-china-rednote-xia	2025/01/16	
US supreme court curbed public scrutiny as it boosted security before Roe ruling	Supreme Court	The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments Wednesday in a case involving a Texas law that mandates adult users of pornographic websites verify their ages before they can access the material. It's a case that's angered free speech advocates, as well as the adult entertainment industry, and, despite controversy, has inspired other states to pass their own versions of the law. During arguments for Free Speech Coalition et al. v. Paxton, a majority of justices appeared to agree states can require limitations on what underage kids can be exposed to. However, there were lingering concerns on the wider implications for other First Amendment rights and of the burdens placed on adults to access material that should be protected by the Constitution. In court filings, Free Speech Coalition, a group representing the adult entertainment industry, argued that while the law's goal is to limit minors' access to online sexually explicit content, it is overly vague and "imposes significant burdens on adults' access to constitutionally protected expression." They also argue that a user, including adults, must submit personally identifying information to access the material, thereby posing security and privacy concerns. 68% of U.S. adults support cellphone bans during class, and about 36% favor an all-day ban, a Pew Research survey found last year.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/12/us-supreme-court-r	2025/01/13	
Supreme Court to hear arguments on Texas porn law	Supreme Court	The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments Wednesday in a case involving a Texas law that mandates adult users of pornographic websites verify their ages before they can access the material. It's a case that's angered free speech advocates, as well as the adult entertainment industry, and, despite controversy, has inspired other states to pass their own versions of the law. During arguments for Free Speech Coalition et al. v. Paxton, a majority of justices appeared to agree states can require limitations on what underage kids can be exposed to. However, there were lingering concerns on the wider implications for other First Amendment rights and of the burdens placed on adults to access material that should be protected by the Constitution. In court filings, Free Speech Coalition, a group representing the adult entertainment industry, argued that while the law's goal is to limit minors' access to online sexually explicit content, it is overly vague and "imposes significant burdens on adults' access to constitutionally protected expression." They also argue that a user, including adults, must submit personally identifying information to access the material, thereby posing security and privacy concerns. 68% of U.S. adults support cellphone bans during class, and about 36% favor an all-day ban, a Pew Research survey found last year.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/15/hx-s1-5260178/supreme-court-texas-pc	2025/01/15	
Supreme Court weighs First Amendment rights and porn in Texas case	Supreme Court	Those who oppose the bans, especially parents of K-12 students, argue that parents should be able to reach their children when needed. Many parents see cellphones as critical for safety and connectedness, especially in the face of emergencies like school shootings. Federal authorities announced Tuesday that they have erased Chinese malware from thousands of computers across the United States. The malware, a variant of the PlugX malicious software, was under the control of China-state sponsored hackers Mustang Panda, which also goes by Twiit Typoon. According to court documents, the malware spread through a computer's USB port, infecting Windows-based devices.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/15/hx-s1-5260178/supreme-court-texas-pc	2025/01/16	
School cellphone bans keep bipartisan momentum	Technology- cell phones	Those who oppose the bans, especially parents of K-12 students, argue that parents should be able to reach their children when needed. Many parents see cellphones as critical for safety and connectedness, especially in the face of emergencies like school shootings. Federal authorities announced Tuesday that they have erased Chinese malware from thousands of computers across the United States. The malware, a variant of the PlugX malicious software, was under the control of China-state sponsored hackers Mustang Panda, which also goes by Twiit Typoon. According to court documents, the malware spread through a computer's USB port, infecting Windows-based devices.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/16/school-cell-phone-bans-2025-legisla	2025/01/17	
FBI erases China-sponsored malware from thousands of U.S. computers	Technology- malware	Those who oppose the bans, especially parents of K-12 students, argue that parents should be able to reach their children when needed. Many parents see cellphones as critical for safety and connectedness, especially in the face of emergencies like school shootings. Federal authorities announced Tuesday that they have erased Chinese malware from thousands of computers across the United States. The malware, a variant of the PlugX malicious software, was under the control of China-state sponsored hackers Mustang Panda, which also goes by Twiit Typoon. According to court documents, the malware spread through a computer's USB port, infecting Windows-based devices.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/fbi-erases-china-sponsored-malware-050	2025/01/15	
FBI warns of potential 'copycat or retaliatory' New Orleans attacks	Terrorism	"The FBI and DHS are concerned about possible copycat or retaliatory attacks due to the persistent appeal of vehicle ramming as a tactic for aspiring violent extremist attackers. Previous attackers inspired by foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) who have conducted vehicle attacks in the United States and abroad have used rented, stolen, and personally owned vehicles, which are easy to acquire," the agencies said in a statement. "Guys like this," Wray said, "who radicalize not in years but in weeks, and whose method of attack is still very deadly but fairly crude ... there are not a lot of dots out there to connect, and there's very little time in which to connect them." Put another way, with lone actors, "there are no informers, no infiltration, no ongoing surveillance ... no territory so you can monitor who moves in and out, [and] you don't know what their capability is until they strike," says Ramon Spaaij, an Australia-based researcher with expertise in the sociology of terrorism.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/13/new-orleans-attack	2025/01/14	
Why 'lone actors' are so hard to find, and how we might get closer	Terrorism	At least 100 men who were mining illegally in an abandoned gold mine in South Africa have died of suspected starvation and dehydration after being trapped deep underground for months while police tried to force them out, a group representing the miners said Monday. More than 500 others are still trapped, the group said. Mnguni said "a minimum" of 100 men had died in the mine in North West province where police first launched an operation in November to force the miners out. They were suspected to have starved to death or died of dehydration, Mnguni said. He said 18 bodies have been brought out since Friday.	https://www.axios.com/local/new-orleans/2025/01/16/lone-actor-terroris	2025/01/17	
At least 100 illegal miners have died while trapped in a South African mine for months, group says	Tragic	At least 100 men who were mining illegally in an abandoned gold mine in South Africa have died of suspected starvation and dehydration after being trapped deep underground for months while police tried to force them out, a group representing the miners said Monday. More than 500 others are still trapped, the group said. Mnguni said "a minimum" of 100 men had died in the mine in North West province where police first launched an operation in November to force the miners out. They were suspected to have starved to death or died of dehydration, Mnguni said. He said 18 bodies have been brought out since Friday.	https://apnews.com/article/south-africa-mine-miners-illegal-0ec092f92c	2025/01/14	
Trump is sentenced in hush money case — but gets no penalty or fine	Trump Bulshit	President-elect Donald Trump received an unconditional discharge for his criminal conviction in New York on Friday, meaning he will not face fines, prison or any other penalties. But some in the U.S. military fear next time could be different. According to nearly a dozen retired officers and current military lawyers, as well as scholars who teach at West Point and Annapolis, an intense if quiet debate is underway inside the U.S. military community about what orders it would be obliged to obey if President-elect Donald Trump decides to follow through on his previous warnings that he might deploy troops against what he deems domestic threats, including political enemies, dissenters and immigrants. Trump has repeatedly said he might use the military to suppress a domestic protest, or to raid a sanctuary city to purge it of undocumented immigrants, or possibly defend the Southern border. Some in the military community say they are especially disturbed by the prospect that troops might be used to serve Trump's political ends. In 1992, Covault said, he had no direct orders from Bush other than to deploy to restore peace. On his own volition, he said, he announced upon landing in LA at a news conference: "This is not martial law. The reason we're here is to create a safe and secure environment so you can go back to normal." Covault said he believes the statement had a calming effect.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/10/hx-s1-5253927/trump-sentencing-new-	2025/01/13	
'I Think Things Are Going to Be Bad, Really Bad': The US Military Debates Possible Deployment on US Soil Under Trump	Trump Bulshit	President-elect Donald Trump received an unconditional discharge for his criminal conviction in New York on Friday, meaning he will not face fines, prison or any other penalties. But some in the U.S. military fear next time could be different. According to nearly a dozen retired officers and current military lawyers, as well as scholars who teach at West Point and Annapolis, an intense if quiet debate is underway inside the U.S. military community about what orders it would be obliged to obey if President-elect Donald Trump decides to follow through on his previous warnings that he might deploy troops against what he deems domestic threats, including political enemies, dissenters and immigrants. Trump has repeatedly said he might use the military to suppress a domestic protest, or to raid a sanctuary city to purge it of undocumented immigrants, or possibly defend the Southern border. Some in the military community say they are especially disturbed by the prospect that troops might be used to serve Trump's political ends. In 1992, Covault said, he had no direct orders from Bush other than to deploy to restore peace. On his own volition, he said, he announced upon landing in LA at a news conference: "This is not martial law. The reason we're here is to create a safe and secure environment so you can go back to normal." Covault said he believes the statement had a calming effect.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/inside-military-quiet-debate-over-2000000	2025/01/13	

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		This isn't the first time that Trump has bad-mouthed this fish. For nearly a decade now, the incoming president has claimed that he can solve California's incredibly complex water problems by simply undoing regulations designed to help the delta smelt skirt extinction, as E&E News's Jennifer Yachnin has reported. Those problems are not rooted in drought, Trump claims, but in Democratic rules that restrain private interests. In reality, rising temperatures have made California's droughts even dryer. The delta smelt is no polar bear or tiger. It looks like every other nondescript small fish. But worthless? That's not only rude but inaccurate. Silver and slender, the delta smelt is endemic to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, meaning it's found nowhere else on Earth. And for most of its time on our planet — likely thousands of years — it was a linchpin in the delta ecosystem, according to Andrew Rypel, an aquatic ecologist at the University of California Davis. "Everything ate it," he said, from salmon, to sharks, to people. "The species, historically, had a tremendous value. It provisioned energy for the whole food web." In an effort to stave off extinction, the delta smelt is protected under both state and federal law. Those protections limit to a small extent when and how much water can be pumped from the delta, in order to provide the fish with adequate freshwater and reduce impingement — when fish get trapped against intake valves. Under these rules, more water flows out to sea. Much bigger pumping restrictions, however, have more to do with ensuring that saltwater doesn't move upstream and make the water unusable for cities and farms, according to UC Davis law professor Kerrigan Birk.			
Why does Trump hate this tiny fish so much?	Trump Bulshit		https://www.vox.com/down-to-earth/394283/los-angeles-wildfires-trump	2025/01/13	
		The Greenland proposal comes alongside Trump repeated is-he-joking-or-isn't-he suggestions that Canada be made the "51st state" and demands that Panama return control of the Panama Canal — altogether, an agenda for territorial expansion on a level not seen since the James K. Polk administration in the mid-19th century. The Republican-led House Foreign Affairs Committee posted on X then deleted a post praising Trump's plans for Greenland and Panama, writing that it's "un-American to be afraid of big dreams." Greenland now has its own prime minister, domestic laws, and court system. Its foreign and security policies are still dictated from Copenhagen, although Greenland is seeking more autonomy on those issues as well. In a New Year's speech, made in the context of Trump's remarks, Greenland Prime Minister Mute Egede suggested the time may have come to move more quickly toward independence. Despite some painful history, many Greenlanders also have close family and cultural ties to Denmark. The island also receives about \$500 million per year in social welfare payments from the Danish state, and Greenlanders have access to free medical care and free tuition at Danish universities. (All of which is to say, Puerto Rico-like status in Trump's America might be a tough sell for a people used to the generous Nordic welfare state.) ... Greenland's Arctic climate and geology make it a difficult place to extract these materials — there are currently only two active mines on the island — but as the ice sheet covering 80 percent of Greenland melts, the idea is that they will become more accessible. (There's something a bit perverse about the notion of Greenland's shrinking glaciers, which could raise global sea levels by 20 feet if they melted entirely, as a solution to climate change.) This has attracted interest and investments from a number of mining companies and governments, including China — likely another reason for Trump's interest. These projects have also encountered local resistance: In 2021, Greenland's parliament passed legislation banning uranium mining and halting a major rare earths mining project.			
The real danger of Trump's Greenland gambit	Trump Bulshit		https://www.vox.com/world-politics/394464/trump-greenland-purchase	2025/01/13	
		House Republicans on Monday introduced a bill that would allow President-elect Trump to enter into negotiations with Denmark to acquire Greenland. ... Rep. Andy Ogles (R-Tenn.) is introducing the two-page "Make Greenland Great Again Act," which was first reported by Fox News.			
House GOP crafts bill to let Trump purchase Greenland	Trump Bulshit	The bill would authorize the president — at the moment of Trump's swearing in on Jan. 20 — to "seek to enter into negotiations with the Kingdom of Denmark to secure the acquisition of Greenland by the United States."	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/13/trump-buy-greenland-house-republi	2025/01/14	
Judge Cannon paves the way for potential release of Part 1 of special counsel's report	Trump Bulshit	Florida district judge Aileen Cannon has paved the way for the Justice Department to release the first part of a special counsel's inquiry into President-elect Donald Trump, covering the investigation and charges against Trump tied to the 2020 presidential election.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/13/hx-s1-5258382/special-counsel-report-1	2025/01/14	
		Incoming senior Trump administration officials have begun questioning career civil servants who work on the White House National Security Council about who they voted for in the 2024 election, their political contributions and whether they have made social media posts that could be considered incriminating by President-elect Donald Trump's team, according to a U.S. official familiar with the matter.			
Trump team is questioning civil servants at National Security Council about commitment to his agenda	Trump Bulshit	Trump's pick for national security adviser, Florida Rep. Mike Waltz, in recent days publicly signaled his intention to get rid of all nonpolitical appointees and career intelligence officials serving on the NSC by Inauguration Day to ensure the council is staffed with those who support Trump's agenda.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/incoming-trump-team-questioning-civil-11	2025/01/14	
		Trump "inspired his supporters to commit acts of physical violence" in the January 6 riots and knowingly spread a false narrative about fraud in the 2020 election, the Department of Justice report found. The long-awaited document - written by Smith - also claimed Trump would have been convicted for the role he played had he not been re-elected by voters in a landslide victory last year.			
Trump's furious 1am response to Jack Smith's special counsel report	Trump Bulshit	"Deranged Jack Smith... is a lamebrain prosecutor who was unable to get his case tried before the Election, which I won in a landslide," Trump wrote.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-r	2025/01/14	
		"[He was] was unable to successfully prosecute the Political Opponent of his 'boes,' Crooked Joe Biden, so he ends up writing yet another 'Report' based on information that the Unselect Committee of Political Hacks and Thugs ILLEGALLY DESTROYED AND DELETED, because it showed how totally innocent I was, and how completely guilty Nancy Pelosi, and others, were."			
GOP senator promises 'shock and awe' from Trump executive orders	Trump Bulshit	"Shock and awe" is what the public can expect from President-elect Donald Trump's first day in office when he issues a "blizzard" of executive orders set to re-shape U.S. policy on the economy and immigration.			
		"When President Trump takes office next Monday, there is going to be shock and awe with executive orders," Barraso told CBS's Face The Nation on Sunday after meeting with Trump last week. "A blizzard of executive orders on the economy as well as on the border."	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/john-ba	2025/01/14	
Senate Democrats urge Garland to preserve evidence from Trump investigations	Trump Bulshit	Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee want the Justice Department to preserve all records related to special counsel Jack Smith's investigations into Donald Trump, in addition to all existing and future records related to the department's investigations and prosecutions of efforts to interfere with the transfer of power following Trump's 2020 election loss, they wrote Monday in a letter to the DOJ obtained by ABC News.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/senate-democrats-urge-garland-preserve	2025/01/14	
Scoop: Trump's \$500 million post-election windfall	Trump Bulshit	President-elect Trump is being inundated with so much money from corporations and wealthy donors that his team expects to raise about \$500 million by summer — even though he can't run again, sources in his operation tell Axios.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/15/trump-windfall-fundraising-500-milli	2025/01/15	
"Stark and troubling": Trump whistleblower sounds alarm over National Security Council loyalty tests	Trump Bulshit	"By prioritizing loyalty above all else, the Trump administration will significantly undermine the foundations of good governance, jeopardize U.S. national security, and weaken U.S. democracy," he said in a post to Bluesky.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/stark-troubling-trump-whistleblower-soun	2025/01/15	
Donald Trump Would Be Convicted of Defrauding U.S. in 2020 Election if He Weren't President-Elect, DOJ Asserts	Trump Bulshit	Close Trump allies, including the authors of Project 2025, have urged the president-elect to replace thousands of career civil servants with pro-Trump recruits, even curating lists of potential hires. Trump is reportedly planning to reinstate Schedule F, a 2020 directive that allowed him to fire career bureaucrats and replace them with loyalists.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/donald-trump-convicted-defrauding-u-145	2025/01/15	
Trump says he will create 'external revenue service' to collect tariff income	Trump Bulshit	Beyond concerns over Trump's preference for loyalists over competent civil servants, a mass exodus of experienced NSC staffers could pose security challenges. Per the AP, holdover national security adviser Jake Sullivan pleaded this case to incoming Trump officials.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/14/trump-external-reve	2025/01/15	
Trump engaged in 'unprecedented criminal effort,' special counsel says in final report on 2020 election case	Trump Bulshit	The more than 137-page report claimed that Trump "resorted to a series of criminal efforts to retain power" after he had lost the 2020 election to Joe Biden. This included "attempts to induce state officials to ignore" vote counts and to "force" his vice president at the time, Mike Pence, and other justice department officials to "act in contravention of their oaths" and "advance" Trump's "personal interests."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-engaged-unprecedented-crimin-l	2025/01/16	
Trump pushes incoherent response to Jack Smith's report on election case	Trump Bulshit	Donald Trump has said he will create an "external revenue service" as soon as he returns to the White House next week, adding further substance to his campaign vow to establish a new regime of tariffs on foreign imports.			
		Donald Trump engaged in an "unprecedented criminal effort" to "unlawfully retain power" after losing the 2020 election, Jack Smith said in a report published early Tuesday by the U.S. Justice Department, with the special counsel expressing confidence in the prospects for a conviction at a trial that will not happen now that Trump is returning to the White House.			
		The report details the special counsel's decision to bring a four-count indictment against Trump, accusing him of plotting to obstruct the collection and certification of votes following his 2020 defeat by Democratic President Joe Biden.			
		To the extent that reality still has meaning, Trump's reaction was utterly incoherent and divorced from basic facts. To hear the Republican tell it, Smith worked for President Joe Biden, which wasn't the case. As far as the president-elect's concerned, the special counsel wrote a report because he couldn't proceed with his prosecution, but that was wrong, too: As NBC News recently explained, the Justice Department's special counsel regulations required Smith to file a report to the attorney general "explaining his charging decisions before he steps down."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/maddow-blog-trump-pushes-incoherent-r	2025/01/16	
Trump voters will be 'brutally scammed' during his term, Nobel economist warns	Trump Bulshit	But those who voted for Trump shouldn't hold their breath for his help, Krugman suggests. A lot of people are "going to get brutally scammed" by the president-elect's proposed economic plan, he said.			
		The economist cautions that Trump's tax cuts for wealthy individuals will "redistribute income," leaving less for the middle-class.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-s	2025/01/16	
"Shocking criminal scheme": Raskin says Jack Smith's report shows Trump is an authoritarian threat	Trump Bulshit	Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., the House Judiciary Committee ranking member who took a leading role in the House investigation over Donald Trump's attempts to overturn the 2020 election, said in a statement Wednesday that the released part of special counsel Jack Smith's final report sets forth "irrefutable evidence" that the president-elect led a "shocking criminal scheme to overturn the legitimate 2020 election results and retain power."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/shocking-criminal-scheme-raskin-says-17	2025/01/17	
		"Trump's offenses are compounded by his refusal to accept accountability and his unrelenting efforts to block the truth from coming out about his conduct — including by threatening and harassing the prosecutors and witnesses involved in DOJ's investigation and subsequent litigation, and attempting to block the release of this very report at the eleventh hour," Raskin said.			

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Trump Unveils His White House Blacklist	Trump Bulshit	"We will MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN, and it will happen very quickly! In order to save time, money, and effort, it would be helpful if you would not send, or recommend to us, people who worked with, or are endorsed by, Americans for No Prosperity (headed by Charles Koch), 'Dumb as a Rock' John Bolton, 'Birdbrain' Nikki Haley, Mike Pence, disloyal Warmongers Dick Cheney, and his Psycho daughter, Liz. "Mitt Romney, Paul Ryan, General(?) Mark Milley, James Mattis, Mark Yeasper, or any of the other people suffering from Trump Derangement Syndrome, more commonly known as TDS. Thank you for your attention to this matter!," he concluded.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-unveils-white-house-blacklist-0311-	2025/01/17	
Will Trump plan to label Mexican cartels as terrorists, bring US military strikes?	Trump Bulshit	Al-Qaida, Hezbollah, the Islamic State — the list of foreign terrorist organisations (FTOs) is a who's who of America's enemies. Now Donald Trump wants to add a new one: Mexican cartels. But some fear it could be the first step towards US military strikes in Mexican territory.	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/17/mexico-trump-cartels-terrorists	2025/01/17	
Trump's "drill, baby, drill" problem	Trump Bulshit- Environment	The latest analysis from the Energy Department's independent stats arm sees just modest output growth this year and next (albeit from already record levels). It sees production rising less than 1% in 2026 "as operators slow activity due to price pressures." One big thing to watch: efforts to expand oil and gas leasing in the Gulf of Mexico and frontier areas in Alaska. Those kinds of projects have decade-long timelines.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/15/trump-drill-baby-drill-us-oil-production	2025/01/16	
Trump's Cabinet disruptors soften key views as hearings loom	Trump Cesspool	Three of President-elect Trump's most provocative Cabinet picks have reversed key positions ahead of next week's confirmation hearings, softening their edges for an establishment they've been charged with tearing down. ... All three lightning-rod picks have spent weeks meeting with senators on Capitol Hill in an effort to secure 50 votes. The results are head-spinning. Gabbard told Punchbowl News on Friday that she now supports the Section 702 surveillance program thanks to updated whistleblower and civil liberty protections. Just days earlier, Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) suggested reversing that one policy position could help her get confirmed. RFK Jr. told reporters on Capitol Hill last month: "I'm all for the polio vaccine." He also assured conservative senators that he will pursue anti-abortion policies at HHS, despite his past support for reproductive rights. Hegseth, after an early clash with Army veteran Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), said he supports "all women serving in our military today," including in combat roles. Hegseth also promised to stop drinking if confirmed, amid sordid allegations about his history with alcohol.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/12/trump-confirmation-hearings-hegseth	2025/01/13	
Giuliani found in contempt of court a second time in Georgia defamation case	Trump Cesspool	Rudy Giuliani was held in contempt of court Friday for continuing to defame two Georgia election workers, multiple outlets reported. It's the second time this week the former Trump lawyer was held in contempt in the same case, more than a year after he was ordered to pay the women \$148 million in damages.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/10/trudy-giuliani-contempt-of-court-defamation	2025/01/13	
Steve Bannon condemns Elon Musk as 'racist' and 'truly evil'	Trump Cesspool	In an escalation of discontent among the highest-profile far-right followers of Donald Trump, his former adviser Steve Bannon has called Trump's newest favorite, Elon Musk, "racist" and a "truly evil guy", pledging to "take the guy down" and kick him out of the maga movement. Four years after receiving a pardon from President Donald J. Trump for crimes related to foreign lobbying, Paul Manafort is again seeking business from political interests abroad.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/steve-bannon-condemns-elon-musk-164-	2025/01/13	
Pardoned by Trump, Manafort Is Back and Looking for Foreign Work	Trump Cesspool	The team and its solicitation of foreign business, previously unreported, seek to capitalize on international interest in forging connections to Mr. Trump amid his emergence at the center of a populist movement of immigration critics sweeping parts of the world. To carry out a mass deportation of its kind, the American Immigration Council, a nonprofit that advocates for fairer immigration policies, estimates it would cost \$88 billion — about \$80 billion more than what ICE is allocated now.	https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/12/us/politics/trump-manafort.html	2025/01/13	
Trump is trying to seal the border while his czar tempers expectations for mass deportations	Trump Cesspool	Only one top Senate Democrat has read Hegseth's FBI background check since it was given to Congress last week. His confirmation hearing begins on Tuesday morning. Paperwork delays meant the background checks and other materials for top Trump nominees were given to lawmakers late. Democrats have pushed for the reports to be available to all members before the hearings. Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.), the panel's top Democrat, met with Hegseth last week. Reed said the meeting did not relieve his concerns about Hegseth's nomination.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-fbi-background-check	2025/01/13	
Scoop: Schumer's private Hegseth plotting	Trump Cesspool	With Democrats looking to create fireworks and the Republican party deeply divided, the hearings are sure to escalate clashes over Trump's most controversial nominees. Many of Trump's picks have already met with senators individually, but the high-stakes confirmation hearings will offer them the chance to shine. For some, they could also be forced to address lingering questions about their past actions and relevant experience.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/13/pete-hegseth-confirmation-hearing-fbi	2025/01/14	
What to know about the confirmation hearings for Trump's Cabinet picks this week	Trump Cesspool	The selections coming before the Senate range from those who are expected to have smooth paths to confirmation, like Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., for secretary of state, to others who face headwinds and need the hearings to garner support, such as former Fox News host Pete Hegseth, a military veteran, for defense secretary. The hearings kick off Tuesday with Hegseth; former Rep. Doug Collins, R-Ga., Trump's pick for veterans affairs secretary; and former North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum for secretary of the interior. On Wednesday, hearings will feature Rubio; former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, Trump's pick to head the Justice Department; South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem to head up the Department of Homeland Security; former National Intelligence Director John Ratcliffe, who was picked to lead the CIA; former Trump White House Office of Management and Budget Director Russell Vought, who was tapped to fill the role again; former Rep. Sean Duffy, R-Wis., who was selected for transportation secretary; and oil and gas industry executive Chris Wright, Trump's choice for energy secretary.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/13/trump-cabinet-senate-confirmation-hearings	2025/01/14	
Senate braces for 'train wreck' as hearings kick off for Trump Cabinet picks	Trump Cesspool	And the Thursday hearings will include a second day of Bondi appearing before senators; former Rep. Lee Zeldin, R-N.Y., the pick to lead the Environmental Protection Agency; hedge fund executive Scott Bessent, who's in line to lead the Treasury Department; and former NFL player Eric Scott Turner, who was tapped for housing and urban development secretary. But some current and former military officers say Hegseth's strident statements regarding war crimes prosecutions of U.S. troops — and his advocacy for service members who were convicted by fellow soldiers — risk undermining core principles that have shaped the American military for decades. A current U.S. military officer who asked not to be named said Hegseth's stance "should be disqualifying." And Paul Eaton, a retired Army major general, said Hegseth's past support for service members accused of — or convicted of — crimes on the battlefield could have ripple effects through the military.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/senate-braces-train-wreck-hearings-1200-	2025/01/14	
Some military officers worry that Pete Hegseth could turn a blind eye to U.S. war crimes	Trump Cesspool	"He condoned murder and execution," Eaton said, referring to Hegseth's past interventions in cases as a Fox News contributor. "That will create a stunning problem for every senior noncommissioned officer out there, every leader down to the squad leader." Donald Trump would have been convicted of crimes over his failed attempt to cling to power in 2020 but for his victory in last year's US presidential election, according to the special counsel who investigated him. "The department's view that the constitution prohibits the continued indictment and prosecution of a president is categorical and does not turn on the gravity of the crimes charged, the strength of the government's proof or the merits of the prosecution, which the office stands fully behind," Smith writes.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/military-officers-worry-pete-hegseth-2025-	2025/01/14	
Donald Trump would have been convicted over 2020 election, says special counsel	Trump Cesspool	"Indeed, but for Mr Trump's election and imminent return to the presidency, the office assessed that the admissible evidence was sufficient to obtain and sustain a conviction at trial."	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/14/donald-trump-2020-election	2025/01/14	
Hegseth grilled about claims on gender in the military	Trump Cesspool	"On the one hand, you say that women are not competent, they make our military less effective," Shahheen said. "And on the other hand, you say 'oh no, now that I've been nominated to be the secretary of defense, I've changed my view on women in the military.'" Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), who lost both legs and partial use of her right arm while deployed to Iraq, said: "This hearing now seems to be a hearing about whether or not women are qualified to serve in combat, and not about whether or not you are qualified to be secretary of defense."	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/15/women-democratic-senators-pete-hegseth	2025/01/15	
Trump's skip-the-Senate playbook	Trump Cesspool	Here's the formula: Survive the first two weeks: Trump's team got past the news cycles about Senate Republicans being quietly concerned about Hegseth's nomination. They've told us for a month that if he can get to his nomination hearing, he'll be fine. Sic MAGA foot soldiers on anyone suspected of falling out of line. Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) was noticeably friendly at today's hearing. Ernst told local radio on Wednesday that she'll vote to confirm Hegseth. Stonewall the Dems: Only the committee's top Democrat — Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.) — was allowed to see Hegseth's background check. Democrats were denied second rounds of questioning today. Hegseth didn't meet with any of the rank-and-file Dems ahead of today's hearing. Take advantage of the media's shattered glass: Today's most TV-ready moments from Senate Dems — Tim Kaine's hypotheticals on Hegseth's red lines and his behavior ... Kristen Gillibrand's condemnation of his comments on women in the military ... Mazie Hirono's questions on his drinking — are unlikely to reach MAGA viewers.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/15/trump-hegseth-senate-confirmation	2025/01/15	
Scoop: Liberal dark money group plays both sides on RFK Jr.	Trump Cesspool	A progressive group that bolstered Robert F. Kennedy Jr. during the 2024 presidential campaign is also supporting a new war room that wants to scuttle his nomination for Health and Human Services Secretary. It is difficult to estimate the total amount that Sixteen Thirty Fund spent on political activities in 2024. But they have been involved with both pro- and anti-RFK efforts.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/15/rfk-jr-confirmation-sixteen-thirty-fund	2025/01/15	
Five questions Hegseth dodged at his Defense Department confirmation hearing	Trump Cesspool	Will he resign if he drinks? Should domestic violence be disqualifying? Would he use the military against Americans? Would he seize Greenland by force? Should the U.S. follow the Geneva Conventions?	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/14/hegseth-defense-confirmation-hearing	2025/01/15	

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		Ranking member Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., who's voted for the last eight nominees for the post, said Hegseth lacks "the character and composure and competence to hold the position of secretary of defense." "In each year you were in charge, expenses far exceeded revenues, until the organization teetered on bankruptcy and had to be merged with another group," he said. ... In one of the most contentious questionings of the hearing, Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine suggested that even if the 2017 sexual encounter was consensual, it still represented a failure of judgment given that Hegseth was married and had just fathered a child out of wedlock. Hegseth said that he has "never disparaged" women in the military and referenced "personal experience" of when standards were lowered. Gillibrand asked him to cite a specific example of standards being lowered. Hegseth did not give one. "I've heard of deathbed conversions but this is the first time I've heard of a nomination conversion," she said.			
Pete Hegseth, Trump's defense secretary pick, grilled at contentious Senate hearing	Trump Cesspool	Hegseth has pledged to reverse "woke policies" at the Pentagon.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/14/g-s1-42564/trump-cabinet-picks-pete-h	2025/01/15	
		On Wednesday, two Floridians – Sen. Marco Rubio, Trump's choice to lead the State Department, and former state Attorney General Pam Bondi, his choice to lead the Justice Department – are among the six names set for hearings, all of whom have generated less controversy than Hegseth. The other hearings on deck: former Wisconsin Rep. Sean Duffy for the Transportation Department; energy industry executive Chris Wright for the Department of Energy; John Ratcliffe, a former congressman who was briefly director of national intelligence during Trump's first term, for CIA director; and Russell Vought, one of the key authors of Project 2025, for the Office of Management and Budget.			
What to watch on a busy day of confirmation hearings for Trump's Cabinet	Trump Cesspool		https://www.yahoo.com/news/watch-busy-day-confirmation-hearings-05	2025/01/15	
		However, raising the flag before the end of the 30-day half-staff period for Carter may violate the U. S. flag code, the section of federal law laying out customs and procedures for flying the stars and stripes. "The flag shall be flown at half-staff 30 days from the death of the President or a former President; 10 days from the day of death of the Vice President; the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives; from the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a Secretary of an executive or military department, a former Vice President, or the Governor of a State, territory, or possession; and on the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress," according to the code.			
Mike Johnson To Raise Capitol Flags For Trump... Potentially Violating Flag Display Code	Trump Cesspool	It all amounted to signs that Democrats view Patel — a polarizing MAGA loyalist who served in Trump's first administration — as an easier target than Bondi, who seems to be on a glide path to confirmation.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/mike-johnson-raise-capitol-flags-1918597	2025/01/15	
		Democrats have widely conceded they will save their energy fighting other of Trump's more controversial nominees than they will Bondi, who they appear to consider qualified as a former Florida attorney general. Some Democrats even thanked the nominee for productive conversations about bipartisan issues, such as combating fentanyl addiction and human trafficking.	https://www.politico.com/news/2025/01/15/pam-bondi-hearing-kash-pa	2025/01/16	
Senate Dems spent Pam Bondi's hearing talking about one guy. (No, not Trump.)	Trump Cesspool	More recently, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Trump's nominee to run the Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the NIH, has said he wants to fire and replace 600 of the agency's 20,000 employees and shift research away from infectious diseases and vaccines, which are at the core of NIAID's mission to understand, treat and prevent infectious, immunologic and allergic diseases. He has said that half of NIH's budget should focus on "preventive, alternative and holistic approaches to health." He has a particular interest in improving diets.	https://www.propublica.org/article/nih-niaid-trump-kennedy-bhattacharya	2025/01/16	
The Second Trump White House Could Drastically Reshape Infectious Disease Research. Here's What's at Stake.	Trump Cesspool	President-elect Trump's pick to lead the Energy Department Chris Wright walked a fine line Wednesday as he called climate change "a real and global phenomenon" but remained skeptical during his U.S. Senate confirmation hearing.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/15/energy-secretary-trump-climate-cha	2025/01/16	
Trump's Energy pick pressed on climate change in Senate confirmation hearing	Trump Cesspool	Wright, the CEO of fracking company Liberty Energy, looked to temper his tone but stood by prior statements criticizing "climate zealots" and calling climate change not a pressing concern.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/15/energy-secretary-trump-climate-cha	2025/01/16	
		Position: The Secretary of Transportation leads a department with a budget of more than \$100 billion that's tasked with maintaining the nation's aviation system, highways, railroads and ports. While some of President-elect Trump's cabinet nominees faced sharp questioning from Democrats on Capitol Hill this week, Duffy received an overwhelmingly friendly welcome from Baldwin and other members of the Senate Commerce Committee.			
Trump's Cabinet pick for secretary of transportation is Sean Duffy. Here's what to know	Trump Cesspool	Duffy has a long record in public service, representing a district in northern Wisconsin in the House of Representatives for more than eight years. But beyond the St. Croix Crossing, he has relatively little direct experience in transportation — or leading a large organization like the DOT, which has a budget of more than \$100 billion.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/15/nx-s1-5261017/sean-duffy-transportati	2025/01/16	
		Democrats need to flip just one Republican on the Armed Services panel to block Hegseth, but no Republican senator Tuesday appeared willing to sink Hegseth's nomination.			
Democrats fail to land decisive blow against Hegseth	Trump Cesspool	Thune said he doesn't see any reason for Hegseth not to be confirmed after the hours-long hearing during which Republicans emphasized public statements praising Hegseth's character and Democrats raised allegations of sexual misconduct, financial mismanagement and drunkenness.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/democrats-fail-land-decisive-blow-110000	2025/01/16	
		"Can you name the importance of at least one of the nations in ASEAN and what type of agreement we have with at least one of those nations?" she asked. "I couldn't tell you the exact amount of nations in that, but I know we have allies in South Korea and Japan and ... with Australia," Hegseth began responding. Duckworth cut him off to make a major correction.			
Pete Hegseth Seems Really Confused About Where Southeast Asia Is	Trump Cesspool	"None of those three countries that you've mentioned are in ASEAN," she said. "I suggest you do a little homework before you prepare for these types of negotiations."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/pete-hegseth-seems-really-confused-194	2025/01/16	
		Robert F. Kennedy Jr. failed to disclose hundreds of thousands of dollars he made from his anti-vax crusade, Donald Trump's transition team has admitted to the Daily Beast. ... In personal financial disclosure forms required for all presidential candidates, Kennedy initially reported that he had earned \$731,470.53 in 2022 and 2023. (In the summer of 2023, he reported making \$515,960 the previous year from CHD; in the summer of 2024, he reported making \$215,510.53.) But documents obtained by the Daily Beast show that Kennedy—after being nominated by Trump for his Cabinet—then quietly amended those forms to disclose that he had actually earned far more from his anti-vaccine nonprofit: a total of \$1.2 million.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/rfk-jr-admits-didnt-021222118.html	2025/01/16	
RFK Jr. Admits He Didn't Come Clean on Anti-Vax Fortune	Trump Cesspool	A group of House Republicans are emerging as frequent co-sponsors of legislation to bring President-elect Trump's vision of an American empire to fruition.			
Trump fuels an informal House GOP land-grab caucus	Trump Cesspool	This group spans the House Republican conference's ideological spectrum, from some of its most moderate members to its most right-wing.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/17/trump-house-republicans-greenland	2025/01/17	
		"People who were snickering or laughing about it when it was first brought up are starting to actually realize it's a legitimate issue," said centrist Rep. Mike Lawler (R-N.Y.).			
		Each bill has between 10 and 15 co-sponsors, with a considerable amount of overlap. Scott Bessent, President-elect Trump's pick for Treasury, will tell the Senate Finance Committee at his confirmation hearing Thursday that he sees "a generational opportunity to unleash a new economic golden age that will create more jobs, wealth and prosperity for all Americans."			
Trump's Treasury pick to tout "new economic golden age"	Trump Cesspool	Bessent will say the U.S. "must secure supply chains that are vulnerable to strategic competitors, and we must carefully deploy sanctions as part of a whole-of-government approach to address our national security requirements. And critically, we must ensure that the U.S. dollar remains the world's reserve currency."	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/16/scott-bessent-trump-treasury-secret	2025/01/17	
Giuliani fails to appear for federal civil trial, says case has been settled	Trump Cesspool	Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani was a no-show on Thursday for a federal civil trial in Manhattan meant to determine which of his assets must be turned over to two Georgia election workers he spread lies about following the 2020 election.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/16/nx-s1-5262594/giuliani-federal-trial	2025/01/17	
		Donald Trump's pick for director of national intelligence couldn't clearly say what the director of national intelligence actually does, according to a new report in the Wall Street Journal. ... Meeting with Senate Republicans ahead of her confirmation hearings, Tulsi Gabbard, the former Democratic representative turned MAGA loyalist, failed to articulate what the job she'd been nominated for entails. She also didn't know the difference between key surveillance powers, according to the report.			
Trump's Pick to Lead National Intelligence Couldn't Say What the Job Actually Is	Trump Cesspool	Rounds also read the statutory language for the role of director of national intelligence and asked how she could possibly meet that threshold. When he asked how she would handle specific elements of the job, she said she would have to just wait and see when she gets there.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-pick-lead-national-intelligence-115	2025/01/17	
		Gabbard is an Army Reserve lieutenant colonel and was deployed to Iraq but has little intelligence experience. She has repeated Kremlin talking points, including blaming NATO for Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and secretly met with Syria's former President Bashar al-Assad in 2017—the same year she also questioned a U.S. intelligence report claiming that Assad had used chemical weapons against the Syrian people.			
Trump's EPA Pick Flunks Basic Science Quiz at Confirmation Hearing	Trump Cesspool	"Senator, while carbon dioxide is not named as one of the six in the Clean Air Act, the EPA has been treating it as such," Zeldin said, to which Whitehouse noted that the Supreme Court had, in fact, ruled in 2007 that it was a pollutant.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-epa-pick-flunks-basic-235935465.f	2025/01/17	
		Zeldin had limited experience working on environmental policy as a congressman and, as he noted throughout the hearing, no scientific or climate-related background. The organization of former Vice President Mike Pence is pushing senators not to confirm Robert Kennedy Jr. as Secretary of Health and Human Services because of his views on abortion.			
Mike Pence's organization comes out swinging against RFK Jr. — because of abortion	Trump Cesspool	"While RFK Jr. has made certain overtures to pro-life leaders that he would be mindful of their concerns at HHS, there is little reason for confidence at this time," they added, according to The Daily Wire. "There are hundreds of decisions made every day at HHS that either lead our nation toward a respect for life or away from it—decisions about federal funding for Planned Parenthood, regulations on the abortion pill (currently accounting for three out of every five abortions), insurance coverage of abortion, and more."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/mike-pence-organization-comes-swinging	2025/01/17	

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		During her confirmation hearing at the Senate Judiciary Committee, Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) asked Bondi, "Are you prepared to say today, under oath, without reservation, that Donald Trump lost the presidential contest to Joe Biden in 2020?" In a display of loyalty to Trump, Bondi, a former state attorney general and longtime Trump ally, refused to say he lost that year. "Biden is the president of the United States. He was duly sworn in, and he is the president of the United States," Bondi said. "There was a peaceful transition of power. President Trump left office and was overwhelmingly elected in 2024."			
Pam Bondi Refuses To Admit Donald Trump Lost In 2020	Trump Cesspool	Bondi's statement represented both a refusal to admit Trump lost and an attempt to erase the mob violence Trump unleashed on the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, which made the transfer of power from Trump to Biden a bit less than peaceful.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/pam-bondi-refuses-admit-donald-160431	2025/01/17	
Election math looks like it's just going to get easier for the GOP	Voting Fuckery	It's going to get tougher and tougher for Democrats to win the Electoral College and the White House if present trends hold, new projections from the U.S. Census Bureau suggest. Democratic strongholds like California and New York appear likely to lose population and multiple electoral votes, while GOP-leaning states like Texas and Florida are likely to pick up votes. That would lead to a shift in 2030.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/election-math-looks-just-going-22000059	2025/01/13	
Despite Trump's win, 'election integrity' activists still seek sweeping voting changes	Voting fuckery	On Jan. 3, the day the new Republican-led Congress was sworn in, Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, reintroduced legislation aimed at stopping noncitizens from voting in federal elections — something that is already illegal and which research has universally shown rarely happens. The bill, dubbed the SAVE Act, would add new proof-of-citizenship requirements to voter registration that experts say could disenfranchise scores of eligible voters.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/13/hx-s-1-5254181/election-integrity-policy	2025/01/14	
"This is a scheme to throw out legal votes": North Carolina's GOP accused of subverting democracy	Voting fuckery	Democrats are sounding the alarm over Republican efforts to overturn a key loss in North Carolina's close Supreme Court race, decrying state Appellate Court Judge Jefferson Griffin's legal challenge that seeks to have the state Board of Elections throw out enough votes to put him ahead. Those efforts, Democrats argue, ignore the will of North Carolina voters and pose a threat to democracy in the state — and nationwide.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/scheme-throw-legal-votes-north-1045043	2025/01/17	
Can you read cursive? It's a superpower the National Archives is looking for.	Weird World	Or a few million. More than 200 years worth of U.S. documents are in need of transcribing (or at least classifying) and the vast majority of them are handwritten in cursive — requiring people who know the flowing, looped form of penmanship. "Reading cursive is a superpower," said Suzanne Issacs, a community manager with the National Archives Catalog in Washington D.C.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/read-cursive-superpower-national-archive	2025/01/13	
Baby gorilla rescued from hold of Turkish Airlines plane	Weird World	A young gorilla rescued from a plane's cargo hold is recovering at an Istanbul zoo, officials said Sunday, while wildlife officers consider returning him to his natural habitat.			
		As Istanbul emerges as a major air hub between continents, customs officials have increasingly intercepted illegally traded animals. In October, 17 young Nile crocodiles and 10 monitor lizards were found in an Egyptian passenger's luggage at the city's Sabiha Gokcen Airport.	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/13/zeytin-baby-gorilla-resc	2025/01/13	
No Trousers Tube Ride brings carnival of underwear to London Underground	Weird World	The annual No Trousers Tube Ride event has returned in colourful fashion as people stripped down to their underwear and hopped on the London Underground.			
		Crowds gathered at Waterloo station and one group of women kicked their legs with raised arms while dressed in coloured knickers. Others were seen strutting down escalators, taking selfies on the platform or posing inside train carriages as they showcased an array of underwear styles and colours.	https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jan/12/no-trousers-tube-rid	2025/01/13	
Dazzling Ice Castles draw tourists to New Hampshire and other states	Weird World	An annual architectural celebration of ice is up and running again in New Hampshire and several other states. Ice Castles, which are both temporary art installations and tourist attractions, feature towers, tunnels, archways and caves, all created by growing, harvesting and arranging thousands of icicles and then blasting them with sprinklers.	https://apnews.com/article/ice-castles-new-hampshire-94961ee837556	2025/01/13	
Mystery shortage leaves Dunkin' stores without doughnuts	Weird World	Dunkin' stores in Omaha, Lincoln and Grand Island all had no doughnuts in their cases Thursday and Friday and put up signs on their doors and drive-thru kiosks informing customers that the pastries were unavailable "due to a manufacturing error." Some locations did offer "Munchkins," or doughnut holes, on Friday.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/dunkin-donut-dou	2025/01/13	
		A manager at the west Omaha Dunkin' location said Friday that she could not give more information on the cause of the shortage, citing orders from Dunkin's corporate headquarters. The manager, who did not give her name, said the shortage was a national problem.			
		Sex toys that use Bluetooth could be vulnerable to being hacked by malicious third parties, the UK government has warned. Remote sex toys are designed to allow a device to be used in one location while being controlled by someone in another.			
Remote-controlled sex toys could be hacked to harm users, UK government warns	Weird World	Research for the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology said cyberattacks could also cause physical harm, such as overheating the device.	https://www.independent.co.uk/tech/sex-toys-hacked-remote-control-b2	2025/01/13	
Mystery balls close nine northern Sydney beaches months after fatbergs washed ashore	Weird World	The combination of sex toys and technologies has multiple vulnerabilities which demonstrate a "clear capacity to inflict physical and psychological harm on to unknowing consumers", the research says.			
		Nine of Sydney's northern beaches have been closed after ball-shaped debris washed ashore.	https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/jan/14/mystery-balls	2025/01/14	
		A spokesperson for Sydney Water described the debris as "grease balls".			
		While North American bird populations decline dramatically, paradoxically, the number of people watching them has increased. While the coronavirus pandemic spurred many people to head outside in search of birds, for others, smart feeders that snap photos and video of backyard visitors have brought the hobby inside.	https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/jan/14/mystery-balls	2025/01/14	
Smart bird feeders gain popularity and spark interest in bird-watching	Weird World	"It really delivers value with very little input," said Franci Zidar, founder and CEO of Bird Buddy, which has sold 350,000 smart bird feeders since 2022. "If you're actually kind of a hardcore bird watcher, that can be a very demanding hobby. There are, however, 20 to 30 species of birds in most U.S. backyards that people either don't really know or appreciate."	https://apnews.com/article/smart-bird-feeders-birdbuddy-ces-fb6ab72d	2025/01/14	
Drones Uncovered a 3,000-Year-Old Hidden Mega-Fortress in the Mountains	Weird World	When researchers walked the mountainous Bronze Age fortress in the South Caucasus mountains in 2018, they had no idea that the ruins they could see were just the tip of the iceberg. But after taking to the skies and utilizing 11,000 drone-shot images to map the structure, they realized that the 3,000-year-old Dmanisi Gora was likely the largest fortress of its kind in the region.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/drones-uncovered-3-000-old-190000540	2025/01/16	
		Instead, he was determined to squeeze a house into the tiny space — just to prove he could. Atkins initially dreamed of a 15-foot-wide home, but city officials shut down his plans. Not one to back down, he scaled the design down to a mere 10 feet in width.			
Florida man who built 'spite house' towers over neighbors — and he's loving it	Weird World	Now, the 19-foot-tall house looms over the surrounding backyards and pools, casting literal and figurative shadows over the neighbors who once opposed its construction.	https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/florida-man-built-spite-house-1729568	2025/01/17	
Rats get taste for drugs in Houston police evidence room	Weird World	Speaking at the press conference, Whitman said "just one example, we've got 400,000lb of marijuana in storage that the rats are the only ones enjoying."	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/16/houston-rats-drugs	2025/01/17	
You've always wondered, here's the answer: do dogs actually watch TV?	Weird World	While dogs on screen are in the top spot, they also like watching all animals — but they are largely uninterested in watching us (humans ranked ninth in 17 categories, ouch). Dogs have more rods — cells in the retina that increase night vision — than we do, making them highly sensitive to movement. Owners reported their dogs were more likely to watch action and so-f-i content with them, genres that tend to feature lots of onscreen movement.	https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2025/jan/17/can-dogs-watch	2025/01/17	
Doctor Performs Vasectomy on Himself, Shares Video on Social Media	Weird World	Chen Wei-nong, a father-of-three who works at a plastic surgery clinic in Taipei City, went viral this week after sharing a rather unusual clip on his Facebook and Instagram profiles. To put his wife's mind at ease, the young doctor decided to get a vasectomy, and to make sure there was no risk of botching the procedure, he performed it himself, recording the entire process for educational purposes. After presenting a list of 11 steps involved in the operation, Chen got local anesthesia and then started working on himself, so to speak. Because operating on yourself isn't very common, a procedure that usually takes about 15 minutes ended up taking an hour, but it was a success.	https://www.odditycentral.com/news/doctor-performs-vasectomy-on-him	2025/01/17	
Woman Who Played Bride In "Fake Wedding" Shocked to Learn She Got Married for Real	Weird World	An Australian woman asked to have her marriage annulled in Court, claiming that she was tricked into it by her husband who told her that it was just a stunt to boost his Instagram following.			
		Two months after the "staged" wedding, the woman's partner asked her to add him as a dependant in her application for permanent residency in Australia, as it would have helped him obtain permanent residency. Both of them were foreigners in Australia, but she told him that she couldn't add him because they weren't married. That's when she learned that the "stunt marriage" was real and that he had filed a notice of intended marriage with her faked signature a month before their Sydney trip.	https://www.odditycentral.com/news/woman-who-played-bride-in-fake-w	2025/01/17	
Turkish woman establishes world record for watermelons crushed with thighs	Weird World	A Turkish woman who squashed five watermelons within a 60-second timeframe, using only her thighs, has set a world record. Guinness World Records shared a video Friday of Gozde Dogan completing the challenge.	https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2025/01/17/turkish-woman-crushes-watermelons-using-thighs/6221737129404/		
Rangers rescue goose 10,000 feet up a California mountain	Weird World	The Forest Service's Shasta-Trinity National Forest team said on social media that rangers stationed at the Mount Shasta Avalanche Center were on a routine patrol when they came across a goose that somehow ended up at Old Ski Bowl at an elevation of 10,000 feet.	https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2025/01/15/Mount-Shasta-geese-California/731736959782/		
Coyote makes 'a mistake,' winds up in Aldi refrigerated shelf	Weird World	"Upon our rangers' arrival, the climber (flyer?) had on only one layer of down and was neither prepared for the temperature nor overnight camping," the post said.	https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2025/01/14/coyote-hiding-aldi-shelf/4971736883488/		
Florida museum gathers 468 people in dinosaur costumes	Weird World	A confused coyote was removed from a grocery store's refrigerated shelf Monday morning. The incident occurred at a Chicago-area Aldi store, where the animal apparently sought refuge in the store's produce aisle.			
		A Florida museum gathered 468 people in dinosaur costumes to break a Guinness World Record.			
		The record to beat stood at 252 people, and was set in Los Angeles in 2019.			
From gross to gorgeous: Scientists 'transform' fetid fatbergs into 'sweet-smelling' perfume	Weird World	A Guinness World Records adjudicator confirmed the Florida attempt took the title with 468 participants.	https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2025/01/13/Cox-Science-Center-and-Aquarium-Guinness-World-Records-dinosaur-costume		
		Scientists are literally turning crap into gold after devising a way to convert foul-smelling fatbergs into aromatic perfumes — effectively killing two birds with one giant, stinky stone.			
		"What we've done is engineer bacteria to eat fatbergs and turn them into fragrance compounds used in products such as perfumes and shampoos," Stephen Wallace, a professor from the University of Edinburgh who proposed the unusual recycling measure, told Scotland's STV News.			
New superjiant 'Darth Vader' sea bug discovered in South China Sea — and it's absolutely massive	Weird World	Fatbergs are created when people flush condoms, wet wipes and other solid waste down the toilet, where they combine with congealed sewage and cooking oil to form a behemoth blob.	https://mypost.com/2025/01/15/fetishle-from-gross-to-gorgeous-scientists-transform-fetid-fatbergs-info-sweet-smelling-perfun		
		Bathynomus vaderi belongs to the genus Bathynomus — giant isopods that are abundant in cold, deep waters. It is a "superjiant," weighing over 2.2 pounds (1 kilogram) and growing up to 12.8 inches (32.5 centimeters) long, making it one of the largest known isopods.	https://www.livescience.com/animals/crustaceans/new-superjiant-darth-vader-sea-bug-discovered-in-south-china-sea-and-it		

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Kansas linemen save mom bobcat and kitten during ice storm	Weird World	Urban, working alongside Eric Hartwell, were working on restoring power to Kansans impacted by the weekend's winter storm, when the two were given a new task: Two bobcats needed rescuing from a nearby power pole, and they were frozen stuck. The high temperature in Norton on Sunday was a freezing 16 degrees, with a wind chill of -5°F. "I couldn't knock them off," Urban said. "She (the mother) was froze down to the top of the pole so I had to make a snare out of a piece of pipe and some rope hold her down while I beat the ice loose that lowered her down to the ground. I had to do the same with the kitten."	https://www.kake.com/home/kansas-linemen-save-mom-bobcat-and-kitten-during-ice-storm/article_dcd88c80-cbb7-11ef-a57		
State Farm to offer renewals to policyholders affected by L.A. County fires	Wildfires	State Farm said Wednesday that it will offer renewals to residential policyholders affected by the Los Angeles County fires that it had previously planned to drop. The figure includes roughly 70%, or 1,100, of the 1,626 residential policies it had in Pacific Palisades' primary 90272 ZIP Code — and thousands more in the neighborhood and elsewhere in the county. The offer does not apply to policies that had already lapsed when the fire started on Jan. 7.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/state-farm-offer-renewals-policyholders-2	2025/01/17	
The Taliban made me marry my boss: how one woman led to a forced marriage	Women's rights	More than 20 women and young girls along with Samira worked for the carpet-weaving business, located in the basement of an unfinished building in a poverty-stricken neighbourhood. They earned about 7,000 Afghanis (€80) a month. That day, Samira says, she was "frozen with fear" as they approached her. "They asked, 'Who is this man [her employer] to you? Why are you alone? What are you doing here? How can you allow such a thing? What are you doing with a man who isn't your relative?'" Fearing for the teenager's safety and worried she might be imprisoned, they told the Taliban that Samira and Mohammad were engaged. Mohammad's family, who were also frightened, said the same thing. Without any further investigation, the Taliban forced Samira to marry her employer, a man who already had a wife and two children. His eldest son is the same age as Samira. The marriage was officiated at the station that same day by the Taliban police, who have been given the authority to perform marriage rites since the Islamists' takeover in 2021. The only witnesses from their respective families were Samira's sister and brother-in-law, and Mohammad's father.	https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/jan/13/afghanistan	2025/01/13	
Patient taken off life support after he was mistaken for his hospital roommate, lawsuit claims	WTF	Family members are outraged after learning that their loved one was removed from life support at a Washington hospital - two years after he was killed in a medical mix-up. ... "We made life-ending decisions for a person we don't even know," Danielson's husband told KGW. ... "They basically told me there was a medical emergency regarding my father. He had been pronounced dead," he told KGW. It wasn't for another two years that he found out about the mixup — and that strangers had decided to end care for his father.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/life-support-washi	2025/01/14	
Meta's civil rights team head to leave company	Zuck sucks	Roy Austin Jr., who built and led a small civil rights team inside Meta beginning in 2021, is departing the company, Austin announced in a Facebook post Friday evening. It's the first notable departure from the social media giant since CEO Mark Zuckerberg's wave of rightward moves this week, which included shuttering a fact-checking operation, loosening hate speech restrictions and ending diversity programs.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/11/meta-civil-rights-team-roy-austin	2025/01/13	
Mark Zuckerberg has turned on the elites, even his own	Zuck sucks	Mark Zuckerberg's appearance on the "Joe Rogan Experience" podcast has made it clear that in the increasingly manicured face-off between government and tech, the Facebook founder is firmly on the side of tech. In his 3-hour appearance on Rogan's podcast, Zuckerberg echoes a lot of the talking points regularly made by Thiel and Andreessen — and implicitly throws Sandberg and Clegg under the bus. ... Zuckerberg now tells Rogan he "gave too much deference" to people who blamed Facebook-based misinformation for Trump's victory. He diagnoses a "very broad decrease in trust" in governments, at the same time as he sees a "whole new class of creators who basically become the new kind of cultural elites that people look at and are like, okay, these are the people who give it to me straight." Of course, Zuckerberg owns many of the platforms on which those creators disseminate their opinions.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/10/mark-zuckerberg-rogan-trump-gove	2025/01/13	
Zuckerberg calls for "repopulation" of "cultural elite class."	Zuck sucks	Zuckerberg said that a "new class of creators" — social media users — should "become the new kind of cultural elites." He skewered the "elite class," even though he himself is the world's third-wealthiest person. It's a common Trumpism as well. Having ended fact-checking on his platforms, Zuckerberg is now calling for an end to the traditional media that holds him, and the presidential administration he's appealing to, accountable. It's language that's in line with Trump, and the kind of anti-media antagonism usually reserved for autocratic government leaders.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/10/mark-zuckerberg-joe-rogan-facebook	2025/01/13	
Zuckerberg Announces Layoffs After Saying Coding Jobs Will Be Replaced by AI	Zuck sucks	Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has announced sweeping layoffs of what he refers to as "low-performers" at his empire.	https://finance.yahoo.com/news/zuckerberg-announces-layoffs-saying-ai	2025/01/15	
A lawyer says he dropped Meta as a client after what he called a "descent into toxic masculinity" by Zuckerberg's company	Zuck sucks	Mark Lemley, a Stanford law professor and lawyer who represented Meta in a 2023 AI copyright case, said he has dropped the company as a client because of what he described as CEO Mark Zuckerberg's "descent into toxic masculinity and Neo-Nazi madness." "I have fired Meta as a client. While I think they are on the right side in the generative AI copyright dispute in which I represented them, and I hope they win, I cannot in good conscience serve as their lawyer any longer," Lemley, a partner at the law firm Lex Lumina, wrote in a LinkedIn post on Monday.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/lawyer-says-dropped-meta-client-141836	2025/01/17	
Facebook Shuts Down Machine Learning Systems for Identifying Viral Hoaxes	Zuck sucks	The decision to axe the hoax-trackers was made amid broader, deeply controversial changes to Meta's overall trust and safety practices across its many platforms, which CEO Mark Zuckerberg — the Silicon Valley giant's "unimpeachable king," as The Atlantic's Charlie Warzel recently put it, given the billionaire's iron-clad corporate control over the company — characterized in a video as a company effort to "get back to our roots around free expression." These allegedly free speech-oriented changes include the sunsetting of its third-party fact-checking program, as well as a renewed allowance of dehumanizing language on the platform. Users across Meta platforms are now allowed to misgender trans people, refer to women as "household objects or property" or declare themselves to be "proud racists."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/facebook-shuts-down-machine-learning-2	2025/01/17	
Former Georgia prosecutor faces trial for allegedly obstructing Ahmaud Arbery killing investigation. Here's what we know	ACAB	The one-time Georgia prosecutor accused of impeding the investigation into Ahmaud Arbery's killers is set to stand trial more than four years after the Black 25-year-old's death, which fueled nationwide protests over racial injustice. Jury selection is scheduled to begin Tuesday in the trial of former Brunswick District Attorney Jackie Johnson, who faces charges of violating her oath of office and obstruction stemming from her alleged actions in the weeks after Arbery's death in February 2020. Three White men were ultimately found guilty on state murder and federal hate crime charges. Felix, who has been a police officer since 2004, was involved in another fatal shooting in 2007, according to testimony he gave to a grand jury investigating Barnes' death. Jeff McShan, a spokesman for the police department, said Felix still works there and has not been disciplined as a result of the Barnes incident. A review of the shooting found it was justified, he added. In his deposition, Felix said that although it had initially appeared to be a routine traffic stop, his view changed because of what he interpreted as Barnes' suspicious behavior, such as not having his license and rummaging around the car looking for the rental car agreement.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/former-georgia-prosecutor-faces-trial-121	2025/01/21	
Split-second decision: Supreme Court returns to the question of police killings	ACAB	In Hughes' lawsuit, she claims Felix used excessive force in violation of the Constitution's Fourth Amendment, which prohibits unlawful searches and seizures. She also filed a separate claim against the police department, which is not directly at issue before the Supreme Court.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/split-second-decision-supreme-court-140	2025/01/23	
Biden pardons Fauci and Milley in an effort to guard against potential 'revenge' by Trump	Biden Admin	President Joe Biden on Monday pardoned Dr. Anthony Fauci, retired Gen. Mark Milley and members of the House committee that investigated the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, in an extraordinary use of the powers of the presidency in his final hours to guard against potential "revenge" by the incoming Trump administration. The pardons, announced with just hours left in Biden's presidency, have been the subject of heated debate for months at the highest levels of the White House. It's customary for a president to grant clemency at the end of his term, but those acts of mercy are usually offered to Americans who have been convicted of crimes. Biden, a Democrat, has used the power in the broadest and most untested way possible: to pardon those who have not even been investigated. The decision lays the groundwork for an even more expansive use of pardons by Trump, a Republican, and future presidents.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/biden-pardons-fauci-milley-effort-121317	2025/01/20	
Biden pardons family members minutes before leaving office	Biden Admin	President Biden preemptively pardoned five family members on Monday, minutes before turning the office of the presidency over to Donald Trump. Biden said the pardons protect his family against political attacks motivated "solely by a desire to hurt me." It's an extraordinary move that shields members of the Biden family from any efforts by the new administration to prosecute them.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/20/biden-family-pardons-while-house-d	2025/01/21	
Americans favor deporting undocumented immigrants, until they're asked how	Borders and immigration	Most U.S. adults (9 in 10 Republicans and close to half of Democrats) say they support mass deportations of immigrants living in the country illegally — but that enthusiasm quickly erodes when presented with options over how to carry them out, according to a new Axios-Ipsos poll. But just 38% of Americans support using active-duty military to find and detain undocumented immigrants in U.S. cities and towns; and only 26% want to use money allocated for the military to pay for deportations. Just one in three endorse separating families or sending people to countries other than their country of origin in the interest of speed. And just one in three support deporting those who came to the U. S. as children.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/19/poll-americans-mass-deportation-po	2025/01/20	
"Just the beginning": Pentagon sending 1,500 troops to U.S.-Mexico border	Borders and immigration	The Defense Department announced Wednesday it's sending an additional 1,500 troops to the southern border to carry out President Trump's immigration orders. The Department of Defense will send an additional 1,500 people, along with helicopters and intelligence analysts "to support increased detection and monitoring efforts," Salesses said. There are already about 2,500 U.S. National Guard and Reserve forces there. Zoom in: The Pentagon will also provide military aircraft to support the Department of Homeland Security's deportation flights of more than 5,000 undocumented immigrants from the areas of San Diego, California; and El Paso, Texas.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/22/troops-us-mexico-border-trump	2025/01/23	

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Scoop: ICE returns to calling immigrants "aliens"	Borders and immigration	Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) leadership has directed employees to refer to foreign nationals as "aliens" in all "internal and external communications," according to an internal memo obtained by Axios.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/22/trump-dhs-ice-immigration-noncitize	2025/01/23	
Katie Britt, ICE arrests 390+ migrants day after Donald Trump inauguration	Borders and immigration	Sen. Katie Britt (R-Ala.) said Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers arrested 398 migrants illegally living in the country Tuesday following President Trump's first full day in office.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/katie-britt-ice-arrests-300-151958326.htm	2025/01/23	
Mayor accuses ICE of detaining vet, U.S. citizens in N.J. immigration raid	Borders and immigration	Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents raided a Newark, New Jersey, business venue on Thursday and detained undocumented immigrants as well as U.S. citizens without warrants, the city's mayor said. ICE agents entered the Ocean Food Depot restaurant where owner Luis Janota said around a dozen immigration authorities detained three people after receiving a complaint, PIX11 News in New York reports.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/24/ice-raid-newark-new-jersey-immigration	2025/01/24	
Republicans shoot down Democratic request for a bipartisan immigration bill	Borders and immigration	"I asked [the agents] what documentation they were looking for, and they said it was a license or a passport. I thought, who walks around with a passport?" Janota told the station. Key Senate Republicans rejected a request by a group of moderate Democrats to jettison their party-line efforts on immigration and instead work on a bipartisan solution. The decision shows the GOP's determination to go their own way on one of President Donald Trump's top priorities, despite their water-thin House majority and other obstacles in the way of passing his agenda. Democrats are also divided over the issue of immigration, and a significant faction of lawmakers in purple states and districts are staking out more conservative stances on the issue.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/republicans-shoot-down-democratic-request-bipartisan-immigration-bill	2025/01/24	
Florida is first to use 'Gulf of America' in official weather advisory	Cesspool- Florida	Florida has become the first state to refer to the Gulf of Mexico as "The Gulf of America" following in lockstep with Donald Trump's explosive inaugural speech, according to an official emergency weather advisory.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/florida-weather-advisory	2025/01/21	
Kentucky KKK distributing flyers warning immigrants: 'Leave now'	Cesspool- KKK	Flyers spread by members of the Ku Klux Klan are telling immigrants in Kentucky and other states to "leave now" in order to "avoid deportation," according to authorities.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/kkk-ken	2025/01/22	
Analysis of 40 cities shows violent crime dropped in 2024: report	Crime	Violent crime in 40 U.S. cities dropped in 2024 at or near pre-pandemic levels, according to a new report out Thursday that shows the COVID-era crime wave evaporating. An examination of 40 cities found 6% fewer homicides in 2024 than in 2019. Similarly, sexual assault fell 26%, domestic violence decreased 11% and robbery dropped 19% in 2024 compared to 2019. Meanwhile, aggravated assaults rose 4%, gun assaults increased 5% and carjackings skyrocketed 25% during the same time period.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/23/violent-crime-murder-rate-2024-bids	2025/01/24	
Record high income needed to buy a home	Economy- Housing	You need to earn roughly \$117,000 a year to afford a median-priced U.S. home, according to a recent Redfin report. That marks a new high in data going back to 2012 and is \$33,000 more than the median household income in the U.S., which is around \$84,000, per Redfin's analysis.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/18/income-needed-for-home-six-figures	2025/01/20	
IRS is cracking down on your online income. What to know	Economy- Income	Any person who earned more than \$5,000 on selling tickets, instruments and other goods and services online in 2023 will receive a 1099-K tax form this month. Online platforms including Etsy and eBay typically only send these forms to users who earned more than \$20,000 in previous years, The Wall Street Journal reports.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/irs-online-income	2025/01/23	
California isn't the only place where insurers are dropping homeowners	Economy- Insurance	A growing number of homeowners nationwide are being dropped by insurance companies as firms and regulators struggle to deal with the unpredictable and costly risks of climate disasters. Nonrenewal notices surged by nearly 30 percent from 2018 to 2022 to more than 620,000 a year, according to a Treasury report released Thursday that examined 246 million policies nationwide. Nonrenewal rates were nearly 80 percent higher in Zip codes that faced the highest risk from insurance perils such as strong winds and wildfires compared with the lowest risk areas. But it's not just a California thing. Florida, Louisiana and North Carolina all posted nonrenewal rates higher than the Golden State in 2023, according to a Senate report released in December. Florida's rate was nearly 3 percent, compared with California's rate of about 1.8 percent. That report also found an increased rate of nonrenewals nationwide.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/california-isn-t-only-place-183104369.htm	2025/01/20	
'Awe-inspiring and harrowing': how two orcas with a taste for liver decimated the great white shark capital of the world	Environment- Animals	Determined to solve the mystery, Towner and her colleagues led necropsies on the four most-recent dead sharks. It quickly became clear that their deaths were connected. All were torn open at the pectoral girdle, just behind the gills, with surgical precision. Two bodies showed distinctive rake marks. Most strikingly, all four were missing their livers. The signs all pointed to the same culprit: orcas. Two male orcas that had frequented Gansbaai since 2015 were Towner's immediate suspects. The names given to them by local zoologists were Port and Starboard, labelled for their distinctive dorsal fins, collapsed to the left and right respectively. The pair had been spotted off Gansbaai's coast within hours of each dead shark being discovered. They had also been seen killing sevengill sharks (Notorynchus cepedianus) in nearby False Bay and gorging on their livers. Towner notes that the seals, no longer under threat, "became bolder, some even preying on the critically endangered African penguins". The absence of sharks can also bring disease: since June 2024, seals in the Western Cape have become infected with rabies, an epidemic that reached Mossel Bay in July. "In my opinion, if white shark populations were at their previous peak, they might have helped mitigate the rabies situation, as rabid seals would likely be easier targets," says Jacobs.	https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/23/south-africa-gar	2025/01/23	
The common thread between hurricanes and wildfires? Increasingly strong winds	Environment- Climate crisis	"There are a lot of people that believe that climate change is happening and real, but not many people believe that they are actually currently experiencing climate change themselves personally. But, they are," Daniel Gifford, a meteorologist and atmospheric scientist with Climate Central, told The Independent on Friday. Climate change is creating conditions ripe for fire growth in areas affected by the winds. Warmer temperatures caused by climate change and atmospheric warming fuel droughts - notably, Southern California hasn't seen rain for months - that dry out fuels like grasses. As the climate warms, more water evaporates from the ground and vegetation. And, wildfire is also driven by hydroclimate whiplash and volatility: rapid swings between unusually wet and dry periods. Warmer temperatures can also result in more rain and heavier precipitation events, like the atmospheric river storms that have slammed the Golden State over the last couple of years. The precipitation allows for intense growth of grasses that will die out.	https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/news/los-angeles-santa	2025/01/21	
There are no "acts of God" anymore	Environment- Climate crisis	The environmentalist and tech thinker Stewart Brand has a quote that always stuck with me: "We are as gods, and might as well get good at it." It appeared in the opening statement of the first Whole Earth Catalog in 1968, at the height of the space program and the Cold War, when the first glimpses of what would become the modern tech industry, born in California, were becoming visible. It was a celebration of human agency and creativity. In 2009, in his book Whole Earth Discipline, Brand modified the line: "We are as gods, and HAVE to get good at it." The 1960s-era optimism in that earlier vision was tempered. We had to accept our power over the Earth, and we had to use it wisely. We had to be good gods. The alternative was destruction. The problem is, we are not good at it. Being gods, I mean — not yet. I believe that the Los Angeles wildfires are largely the result of human action, or inaction. The greenhouse gases we've pumped into the atmosphere, contributing to the "hydroclimate whiplash" that primed LA's forests to burn. The housing and insurance policies that put too many homes in a wildfire danger zone, too many of which were built to burn. The small mistakes of judgement in the governmental response to the fires, and the bigger errors of overconfidence that made it possible to believe that such a place as Los Angeles could exist where it did, and everything would be fine.	https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/396057/los-angeles-wildfires-insura	2025/01/23	
'Catastrophic': Great Barrier Reef hit by its most widespread coral bleaching, study finds	Environment- Oceans	More than 40% of individual corals monitored around a Great Barrier Reef island were killed last year in the most widespread coral bleaching outbreak to hit the reef system, a study has found. Scientists tracked 462 colonies of corals at One Tree Island in the southern part of the Great Barrier Reef after heat stress began to burn the corals while in early 2024. Researchers said they encountered "catastrophic" scenes at the reef. Only 92 coral colonies escaped bleaching entirely and by July, when the analysis for the study ended, 193 were dead and a further 113 were still showing signs of bleaching.	https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/22/catastrophic-gr	2025/01/21	
High fertiliser use halves numbers of pollinators, world's longest study finds	Environment- Pollinators	Using high levels of common fertilisers on grassland halves pollinator numbers and drastically reduces the number of flowers, research from the world's longest-running ecological experiment has found. Increasing the amount of nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus doused on agricultural grassland reduced flower numbers fivefold and halved the number of pollinating insects, according to the paper by the University of Sussex and Rothamsted Research.	https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/20/uk-agriculture-f	2025/01/20	
Solar farms are booming in the US and putting thousands of hungry sheep to work	Environment- Solar	Bees were most affected — there were over nine times more of them in chemical-free plots compared with those with the highest levels of fertiliser, according to the paper, published in the journal Royal Society Biodiversity. The booming solar industry has found an unlikely mascot in sheep as large-scale solar farms crop up across the U.S. and in the plain fields of Texas. In Milam County, outside Austin, SB Energy operates the fifth-largest solar project in the country, capable of generating 900 megawatts of power across 4,000 acres (1,618 hectares). How do they manage all that grass? With the help of about 3,000 sheep, which are better suited than lawnmowers to fit between small crevices and chew away rain or shine.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/solar-farms-booming-us-putting-0606230	2025/01/20	
The hydrants up here are dead.' Radio traffic shows how LA firefighters lost water	Environment- Wildfires	On the morning of Jan. 7, a firefighter near the Pacific Palisades neighborhood of Los Angeles observed a 10-acre brush fire along a ridgeline and sent out a warning. "Just to give you guys a heads up," he radioed to other first responders. "This has the potential for 200 acres plus."	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/18/inx-a1-5262563/radio-traffic-la-fires-first	2025/01/20	
Fire reignites at California battery plant after evacuations amid toxic smoke	Environment- Wildfires	The Palisades fire and the other fires that followed have since burned down more than 40,000 acres — an area three times the size of the island of Manhattan. Over a week later, the Palisades fire and the Eaton fire, a blaze that started at the base of the Angeles National Forest, are both still burning. A fire at one of the world's largest battery-storage plants in northern California flared up again on Friday afternoon, sending up plumes of toxic smoke after authorities had said the blaze was mostly over. The fire in Moss Landing in Monterey county started on Thursday, forcing the evacuation of up to 1,500 people and the closure of a major highway. Fire crews were not engaging with the fire but rather waiting for it to burn out on its own, a local fire official said.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/fire-reignites-california-battery-plant-0117	2025/01/20	

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		Bracing for another round of extreme fire weather conditions, Los Angeles Fire Department officials on Monday had staffed all of its available extra engines and staged 30 engines in fire risk areas, measures they failed to take before the deadly Palisades fire, according to internal records and officials. Fire officials told reporters Monday that the agency also ordered the outgoing shift of about 1,000 firefighters to remain on duty to staff the extra engines.			
With a forecast of dangerous winds, LAFD pre-deploys to avoid fallings of Palisades fire	Environment-Wildfires	The actions came after The Times found that the LAFD decided not to take those drastic measures Jan. 7, despite extraordinary warnings from the National Weather Service that a life-threatening and destructive windstorm was going to hit the region. A new fire exploded Wednesday north of Castaic, quickly charring 8,000 acres and forcing thousands to flee from their homes amid a month of extreme fire conditions that have plagued Southern California. The Hughes fire started off of Lake Hughes Road just before 11 a.m. and quickly prompted evacuations orders in and around Lake Castaic, which by afternoon extended toward Ventura County to the west and near Sandberg to the north. More than 19,000 people were ordered to evacuate and another 15,000 people were in areas where evacuation warnings were issued.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/forecast-dangerous-winds-lafd-pre-20015	2025/01/21	
Hughes fire explodes north of Castaic, shuts down 5 Freeway and forces evacuations	Environment-wildfires	Rasmus Swalethorpe and others on a routine month-long sampling mission aboard a government research vessel sprang into action. The presence of wildfire smoke dozens of miles offshore was unexpected. But they knew that where there was smoke, there was also ash. And data to collect. ... "There's for sure going to be a lot of toxins associated with this debris," Swalethorpe said. "We don't know the exact effects, because this is more or less unprecedented. But it's likely to have an effect on the organisms living there." Research into the impact of wildfire ash on oceans is a newer scientific field, said biogeochemical oceanographer Joan Lort, "because it's kind of related to this new generation of fires, mega-fires." Studies show extreme wildfires that are hotter and harder to control are happening more often. The fires release huge plumes of smoke and ash that can get blown out to the ocean.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/expected-rain-snap-1-dry-110005816.html	2025/01/23	
Not even sea life is safe from the L.A. fires	Environment-wildfires	Fresh California wildfires ignited in the Southern California on Thursday during "critical" fire weather, leaving tens of thousands of people under evacuation orders. The Hughes Fire, north of Los Angeles, and San Diego County's Border 2 Fire were among the biggest threats as the destructive Eaton and Palisades fires continued to burn during the fourth straight day of red flag warnings amid dry, windy conditions.	https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2025/01/22/la-fires-ash-smok/	2025/01/23	
Thousands under evacuation orders as fresh blazes erupt in California	Environment-wildfires	Residents across the United States from the northern plains to the tip of Maine are bracing for dangerously low temperatures as tens of millions of residents along the east coast contend with a thick blanket of snow — and more snowfall in the forecast. ... An area from the Rockies into the Northern Plains will see colder than normal weather over several days, with temperatures forecast to drop to between -30F (-34C) to -50F (-48C) on Monday. Sub-zero wind chills are forecast to reach as far south as Oklahoma and the Tennessee Valley. One to 3 inches of snow — and a small chance of up to 5 inches — could be ahead as the rare combination of freezing temperatures and moisture arrive in some areas of Florida this week, according to the National Weather Service Mobile.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/23/hughes-fire-california-wildfires-la-co	2025/01/24	
Millions across US brace for dangerously low temperatures and winter storms	Environment-Winter weather	A rare winter storm that's slamming the southern U.S. with "dangerously cold temperatures," historic snow and icy conditions has been linked to at least 10 deaths as it disrupts travel across the region. ... Lake Charles, La., saw its first-ever blizzard warning on Tuesday due to heavy snow and high winds from the extreme weather that's tied to the polar vortex event across the Lower 48 states, as it left some 300 million people under cold weather alerts.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/20/millions-brace-dang	2025/01/20	
Soms Florida counties could see 1 to 3 inches of snow. Watch for ice. What to expect	Environment-Winter weather	States of emergency were declared in states including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi ahead of the extreme weather event, but storm-related deaths have been reported across the region. ... Georgia officials said at least one person had died of hypothermia in the Atlanta area.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/florida-counties-could-see-1-1635357791	2025/01/21	
Deaths reported as rare winter storm sweeps southern U.S.	Environment-Winter weather	President Trump's near-total pardon of Jan. 6 rioters was denounced by the Fraternal Order of Police, the largest police union in the U.S., and the International Association of Chiefs of Police on Tuesday.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/22/snow-winter-storm-us-south-texas-ic	2025/01/22	
Police union that endorsed Trump blasts Jan. 6 pardons	FAFO	A combative defamation trial in Florida, involving CNN and a former US security contractor in Afghanistan, is providing a roadmap for a crackdown on media independence during the second Trump administration, experts believe. The case was already unusual because CNN chose to defend itself and risk millions in damages, while other media giants such as ABC News and the Washington Post have opted to back down in the face of threats of persecution from the incoming president. Ultimately, after 18 hours of deliberation, the jury found that CNN defamed the contractor and awarded Zachary Young \$4m in lost business and \$1m in personal damages. Now the case and trial will be remembered more for the aggressive stance of the prosecution, which almost exactly mirrored Donald Trump's position that he will "straighten out the press" during his second term.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/22/police-union-trump-jan-6-pardons	2025/01/22	
CNN defamation case foreshadows Trump media crackdown, experts say	Freedom of the press	Andrew Torba is the founder of the far-right Christian Nationalist social media platform Gab, which pioneered AI-powered Nazi chatbots. He shared the clip on his account with the caption, "Incredible things are happening already Imao." ... However, Musk has allied himself with far-right movements in Europe, including the extremist German party AfD. After purchasing Twitter, which he renamed X, he welcomed long-banned white nationalists back to the platform in the name of free speech. And his X account is sometimes hard to distinguish from far-right extremists. In late 2023 he went on a so-called "apology tour" to Israel after responding to a post about an antisemitic conspiracy theory on X with the words "the actual truth." He often posts Pepe frogs, and other images and memes associated with the alt-right, including recently temporarily adopting the handle "Kekius Maximus."	https://www.theguardian.com/media/2025/jan/20/cnn-defamation-trial	2025/01/20	
Right-Wing Extremists Are Abuzz Over Musk's Straight-Arm Salute	Fuck that guy	A group of organizations immediately sued the Trump administration as the president was inaugurated on Monday, arguing that its new "Department of Government Efficiency" violates federal transparency law. ... Despite its name, DOGE is not a real government department and isn't subject to the same oversight and accountability as normal federal agencies. The lawsuit alleges DOGE runs afoul of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, a law passed in 1972 to ensure that the advice given by advisory bodies is ideologically balanced and transparent to the public. Dozens of Reddit's communities, or subreddits, have discussed or enacted bans on links to Elon Musk's X in response to Musk's gestures at a Trump inaugural event that many interpreted as a Nazi salute. ... "Beyond Musk giving two Nazi salutes, he has repeatedly amplified harmful rhetoric and interacted with accounts promoting Nazi ideology, raising serious questions about Twitter's role in spreading hate and extremism," the person added.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/wing-extremists-abuzz-over-musk-22004	2025/01/21	
Trump Administration Immediately Sued Over Elon Musk's DOGE	Fuck that guy	The bill requires health care practitioners to provide the "same degree of professional skill, care, and diligence" for a child born alive during an attempted abortion as they would during normal childbirth. Republicans have framed the bill as not being anti-abortion but anti-infanticide. Democrats have criticized the legislation as being redundant, as killing infants born alive after an attempted termination, a rare occurrence, is already illegal, and the bill only serves to "criminalize" doctors.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-administration-immediately-sued-g	2025/01/21	
Musk's salute leads Reddit forums to block links to X	Fuck that guy	It's looking like House Oversight Committee chair James Comer (R-Ky.) might not investigate corruption allegations against President Donald Trump as vigorously as he did the allegations against former President Joe Biden. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.), the top Democrat on the oversight committee, asked Comer in a letter Tuesday to take a look at Trump's various financial entanglements. In response, a Comer spokesperson suggested it wouldn't be a priority, calling Democrats hypocrites.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/22/reddit-elon-musk-x-links-block	2025/01/23	
House Republicans pass 'born-alive' abortion bill	GOP Bulshit	The Justice Department has ordered its civil rights division to halt all ongoing litigation from the Biden administration and not pursue new cases or settlements, according to a memo sent to the temporary head of the division that was obtained by The Washington Post. ... A separate memo sent to Wolfe on Wednesday says the civil rights division must notify the Justice Department's chief of staff of any consent decrees the division has finalized within the last 90 days. That directive suggests that police-reform agreements the Justice Department has negotiated with cities including Minneapolis, Louisville and Memphis could be in jeopardy. The first memo doesn't state how long the freeze will last, but it essentially shuts down the civil rights division for at least the early weeks of the Trump administration. Harmeet Dhillon a Republican lawyer and activist who is Trump's nominee to lead the department, is awaiting Senate confirmation.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/house-republicans-pass-born-alive-21013	2025/01/24	
Republicans Don't Seem Interested in Probing Donald Trump's Family Business	GOP Bulshit	House Republicans have discussed far-reaching changes to the Medicaid program, including new caps on how much is spent per person — an idea that was part of the GOP's ill-fated 2017 plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act. ... Another proposal under consideration would reduce how much the federal government pays for the Medicaid expansion under the ACA, which would automatically trigger the loss of coverage for millions of residents in some states.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/republicans-don-t-seem-interested-15004	2025/01/24	
Justice Department freezes all cases in civil rights division	Government-DOJ	Republican leadership can lose only a handful of votes, making cuts to the safety net program a high-stakes loyalty test that could deliver an early legislative win but result in millions of people losing their health coverage.	https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/01/22/justice-c	2025/01/23	
GOP lawmakers cov on Medicaid cuts for tax extension	Government-GOP	President Trump on Tuesday ordered key federal health agencies to pause all external communications, multiple outlets reported and Axios confirmed. Why it matters: The health agencies' website updates, advisories, and scientific reports provide the public with critical information on a variety of medical issues, including food recalls, infectious diseases and new drug approvals. ... While a pause in external communications at the start of a new administration isn't unprecedented, an unnamed source familiar with the directive told CNN that the scope of the order seemed unusual.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/22/gop-lawmakers-medicaid-cuts	2025/01/22	
Trump admin orders federal health agencies to halt communications	Government-Health agencies		https://www.axios.com/2025/01/22/trump-cdc-nih-hhs-health-agencies-	2025/01/23	

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		Scientific researchers around the country are concerned after the National Institutes of Health canceled meetings this week with very little explanation. The move comes after federal health officials were told to halt public communications until they could be reviewed by a Trump appointee. She explains that these aren't the kinds of meetings that can easily be rescheduled. There are a lot of moving parts, involving different institutions all operating on different timetables. A delay — especially an indefinite delay, like this one — could have a negative impact on important cancer research, Starbird says. It's possible this is just a temporary pause on meetings to allow the new Trump team to get their bearings, Starbird says. And indeed, the freeze on public communications for all of the Department of Health and Human Services — NIH is part of HHS — has an end date of Feb. 1, according to a memo obtained by NPR.	https://www.npr.org/sections/health-news/2025/01/23/nx-s1-5272	2025/01/24	
National Institutes of Health cancel scientific meetings after Trump directives	Government- NIH				
		Over just eight hours on Inauguration Day, Presidents Trump and Biden forever stretched the immense public and private power of the presidency to once-unimaginable dimensions. Presidents can preemptively pardon family and friends in case of any accusation of graft or crimes. Presidents can pardon violent criminals convicted of sedition and violence in defense of their politics. Presidents and their families can start businesses — or even currencies — and profit without restriction or outcry. Oh, and they can do this with the presumption of presidential immunity. America doesn't have a king. But we're dancing close to king-like power.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/22/trump-presidency-biden-pardons-gr	2025/01/22	
Behind the Curtain: The new judge and jury	Government- Presidential powers				
		The US Transport Security Administration (TSA) revealed that it had intercepted a total of 6,678 firearms at airport security checkpoints last year — with almost all of them being loaded at the time of discovery.	https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/tsa-guns-intercepted/	2025/01/21	
Thousands of guns intercepted at US airports last year — and 94% were loaded	Gun Nuts				
		Two students died and another was injured in a shooting at a Nashville high school on Wednesday morning. The Metro Nashville Police Department reported the shooting took place inside Antioch High School's cafeteria. Police say 17-year-old Solomon Henderson shot two students and then himself. Josselin Corea Escalante, 16, died after being transferred to Vanderbilt University Medical Center. A third student went to the hospital with what police described as a "graze wound" and was in stable condition.	https://wpln.com/post/shots-fired-inside-nashville-high-school/	2025/01/23	
2 dead, 1 injured in shooting at Nashville high school	Guns- school shooting				
		For the first time since the 2022 countryside outbreak, bird flu hit a poultry producer in Georgia, the nation's top state for chicken production. The state Department of Agriculture announced Friday that the agency has detected a case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza at a commercial poultry producer in Elbert County, approximately 100 miles (165 kilometers) northeast of Atlanta. The agency suspended all poultry exhibitions, shows, swaps, meets and sales.	https://apnews.com/article/bird-flu-georgia-chicken-commercial-flock-a5	2025/01/20	
Bird flu found in a Georgia commercial flock for the first time amid the nationwide outbreak	Health- bird flu				
		The escalating bird flu crisis is ravaging the nation's supply of eggs, leading to increased prices and presenting an immediate challenge for the Trump administration. An outbreak of avian influenza is growing and has affected nearly 13 million birds in the last 30 days, according to USDA data. Some retailers are limiting how many eggs consumers can purchase while others are having a hard time keeping shelves stocked. "It's really a crazy situation and an unfortunate situation for consumers because the supply situation is what it is due to the bird flu," Jason Hart, CEO of grocery chain Aldi, tells Axios.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/21/bird-flu-egg-prices-avian-influenza-tr	2025/01/22	
Egg shortages, higher prices spike as bird flu grows	health- Bird flu				
		When the FDA announced a ban of food dye Red No. 3 this week, the agency pointed to a law that says a food additive may not be authorized if it's been found to cause cancer. And research shows that red No. 3 can cause cancer in laboratory rats when they are exposed to high levels. Food companies still have a couple of years to eliminate petroleum-based red No. 3 from their products. And there are other synthetic food dyes — in all sorts of different colors — that remain on the market.	https://www.npr.org/sections/health-news/2025/01/18/nx-s1-5262	2025/01/20	
Beyond red dye No. 3: Here's what parents should know about food colorings	Health- Food coloring				
		The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has expanded its approval of Spravato, an antidepressant nasal spray. The drug is now cleared for use as a standalone treatment for depression. ... The original approval required that patients on Spravato also receive an oral antidepressant. Now, the FDA says the drug can be used on its own. The decision came after a large study found that Spravato alone worked better than a placebo. In the first nine months of 2024, the drug generated sales of about \$780 million for its maker, Johnson & Johnson.	https://www.npr.org/sections/health-news/2025/01/21/nx-s1-5269	2025/01/22	
FDA allows standalone use of nasal spray antidepressant Spravato (esketamine)	Health- Medication				
		Following the news, BuzzFeed spoke to Keilan Baker, PhD, MPH, MA. He's the Executive Director of the Institute for Health Research & Policy at Whitman-Walker and was part of a committee that informed the National Institutes of Health's definition of sex and gender. "Having read literally every definition of sex that's out there, this one is shockingly inaccurate. It is bad science. It's also bad policy," he told BuzzFeed. "There is no easy, simple, straightforward, binary, immutable definition of sex. It simply doesn't exist from a biological standpoint," he continued. "There are a number of elements that go into what we think of as sex. For example, chromosomes, gonads, external genitalia, and hormones."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/heres-why-donald-trumps-executive-192	2025/01/23	
Here's Why Donald Trump's Executive Order On Transgender People Should Be Concerning To Everyone, Including Cis Women	Health- science				
		Trump's reluctance to pay the freight for the global health partnership could come back to bite him if surveillance efforts break down and a regional outbreak turns into another pandemic. Leaving WHO "could put the U.S. at a disadvantage if the U.S. is not at the table, not being privy to all the cooperation and information that others may be getting," said Jennifer Kates, senior vice president and director of the Global Health & HIV Policy Program at KFF. Public health experts acknowledge that another worldwide pandemic is a "when," not an "if." And there are myriad other concerns. Tuberculosis is having a resurgence and now is the world's leading infectious disease killer. Climate change could put billions of people at risk for malaria. And while the H5N1 bird flu isn't yet a threat to the general public, that could quickly change. WHO issues alerts on disease outbreaks around the world almost weekly. It mobilizes the response to crises like Ebola in West Africa and "prequalifies" medical products for safety and efficacy before they're bought and distributed in developing countries.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/22/trump-who-withdrawal-global-health	2025/01/22	
U.S. exit from the WHO may hamstring global health	Health- WHO				
		Respiratory syncytial virus usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms in most people and is the leading cause of infant hospitalization in the U.S. Preliminary data shows there have been 1.5m to 3.1m outpatient visits for RSV, at least 76,000 hospitalizations and up to 9,500 deaths. Norovirus causes vomiting, diarrhea and foodborne illness. Between August 1 and December 11, there were 495 reported cases compared to 363 cases the year prior. For the current season, there have been 34.9 hospitalizations for every 100,000 people. It can be caught from an infected person or by consuming contaminated food or drink. ...	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/virus-surge-flu-inf	2025/01/23	
'Quadremic' of illnesses hitting US as virus season surges	Health- Winter ick				
		According to the CDC, there have been at least 12 million illnesses, 160,000 hospitalizations and 6,600 deaths from flu so far this season. The country is being impacted by the H3N2 and H1N1 strains, with Flu A being more aggressive in adults. However, Flu B has the potential to see increases later in the season. By the time she succumbed to her injuries in intensive care one week later, investigators had begun to unearth a scandal shocking even by the rock-bottom standards of the Andean nation's ethically-challenged Congress — a prostitution ring allegedly operating within the legislative palace itself. Politicians initially sought to ignore the mushrooming scandal, which Ms Vidal, who was part of the ring, had reportedly been on the point of revealing when she was killed.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/escort-murder-miniskirt-ban-parliamentar	2025/01/20	
Assassination of an escort leads to miniskirt ban in world's least popular parliament	Human rights				
		But public pressure finally forced them to act. Last week, they banned female aides from wearing miniskirts and shorts. A senior Taliban figure has urged the group's leader to scrap education bans on Afghan women and girls, saying there is no excuse for them, in a rare public rebuke of government policy. Sher Abbas Stanikzai, political deputy at the Foreign Ministry, made the remarks in a speech on Saturday in southeastern Khost province. He told an audience at a religious school ceremony there was no reason to deny education to women and girls, "just as there was no justification for it in the past and there shouldn't be one at all."	https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/jan/22/women-n	2025/01/22	
Taliban deputy tells leader there is no excuse for education bans on Afghan women and girls	Human rights				
		While marriage is presented to some underage girls as a chance to escape poverty, many of the marriages end in failure, bringing lifelong consequences for young women, including social shame and a lack of opportunities because of unfinished schooling. Instead of tightening laws against underage marriage and helping girls from poorer backgrounds to complete their education, the new law allows the marriage of minors according to the religious sect under which the marriage contract is concluded.	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/19/columbia-national-liber	2025/01/20	
'The end of women and children's rights': outrage as Iraqi law allows child marriage	Human rights				
		For Shia Muslims, which make up the majority in Iraq, the lowest age of marriage for girls will be nine years old, while for Sunnis, the official age will be 15. At least 80 people have been killed and thousands displaced in north-east Colombia after the collapse of a fragile truce between rebel groups vying for control of the one of the country's largest cocaine hubs. Violence between the National Liberation Army (ELN) and dissident factions of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc) has rapidly escalated in the lawless region bordering Venezuela since Thursday, forcing at least 5,000 people to flee their homes.	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/22/cuban-prisoner-release	2025/01/22	
More than 80 people killed in Colombia as truce between rebel groups collapses	International- Colombia				
		The families of Cuban protesters jailed in anti-government demonstrations are waiting anxiously to see if the government will continue with a planned prisoner release after Donald Trump reneged on a deal made last week by Joe Biden. ... Less than a week after it was taken off a US list of state sponsors of terror (SSOT), Cuba was returned to sit alongside Syria, North Korea and Iran — with grim implications for tourism and trade. Trump reversed Biden's decision late on Monday, amid a flurry of executive orders overturning domestic and international policies of the previous administration.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/19/gaza-ceasefire-begins-israel-hamas	2025/01/20	
Families fear for Cuban prisoners after Trump reneges on release deal	International- Cuba				
		After a three hour delay, the ceasefire in Gaza began at 11:15 a.m. local time (4:15 a.m. ET) with Israel and Hamas agreeing to stop the fighting for 42 days. This is the first ceasefire in the Gaza war since November 2023, when the first hostage deal led to an 8-day pause in the fighting. The war, which started with the Hamas terror attack against Israel on October 7, 2023, has been the bloodiest period in the Israel-Palestinian conflict since 1948. More than 46,000 Palestinians and more than 1,600 Israelis have been killed — most of them civilians.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/19/gaza-ceasefire-begins-israel-hamas	2025/01/20	
Gaza ceasefire comes into effect ahead of first hostage release	International- Israel				

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Israel ambassador expects Trump to reverse hold on 2,000-pound bombs	International-Israel	Israel expects President Trump to lift the Biden administration's hold on the supply of 2,000-pound bombs in his first days in office, outgoing Israeli ambassador to the U.S. Mike Herzog told Axios.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/20/israel-trump-arms-shipment-gaza-ha	2025/01/21	
Hundreds of Swedish forces arrive in Latvia in largest deployment with NATO to date	International-NATO	Hundreds of Swedish troops arrived in Latvia on Saturday to join a Canadian-led multinational brigade along NATO's eastern flank, a mission Sweden is calling its most significant operation so far as a member of the Western defense alliance. ... Sweden's armed forces said the mission of 550 troops will contribute to the alliance's deterrence and defense efforts, and ensure stability in the region, and that it "marks Sweden's largest commitment yet since joining NATO" last year.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/hundreds-swedish-forces-arrive-latvia-13	2025/01/20	
North Korea preparing to send more troops to Ukraine war, says South Korea	International-North Korea	North Korea is preparing to send more soldiers to fight in the Ukraine war, military officials in South Korea have said, despite reports of heavy casualties among troops from the communist state who have already been sent to the battlefield. The claim that Pyongyang could be planning to increase its support for the Kremlin came as Donald Trump suggested he would attempt to rekindle his relationship with Kim Jong-un, describing the North Korean leader as a "smart guy" in an interview with Fox News.	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/24/north-korea-preparing-	2025/01/24	
Russia warns Trump against seizing Panama Canal	International-Panama	South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said in a statement on Friday that four months after the North sent an estimated 11,000 troops to the Ukraine conflict – a significant number of whom have been killed or wounded – the regime "is suspected of accelerating follow-up measures and preparation for an additional dispatch of troops". "We expect that during the expected discussions between the leadership of Panama and US President Donald Trump on issues of control over the Panama Canal, which certainly falls within the sphere of their bilateral relations, the parties will respect the current international legal regime of this key waterway," said Alexander Shcheltnin, director of the Latin American Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, according to Russian state media outlet, TASS.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/russia-warns-trump-against-seizing-1658	2025/01/22	
Trump says China is 'operating' the Panama Canal -- here are the facts	International-Panama	The 82km (51-mile) canal, which links the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, was built and owned by the US in the early 1900s before being ultimately given to Panama in 1977 under a treaty that guaranteed its neutrality. In 2021 the agreement allowing Panama Ports Company to continue as operator was extended by 25 years. The US is the biggest user of the Panama Canal and is responsible for about three-quarters of the cargo moving through it each year. China is a distant second.	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/23/donald-trump-panama-	2025/01/23	
Russian attack drones are killing civilians for target practice, Ukraine says	International-Russia	Some US officials and analysts have said there are legitimate concerns about the heavy presence of a Chinese company in a strategically important channel, but believe that Trump's remarks are really aimed at limiting Beijing's growing diplomatic and economic presence in Latin America. Russian military drones are swarming the skies over the front-line city of Kherson, carrying out deadly attacks that appear to target civilians, according to Ukrainian officials. ... "I've experienced it myself. The Russian drones hunt us constantly; it's like a safari," said Svetlana Budukh, a 43-year-old resident who's chosen to stay in Kherson. "In the summer we could hide under the green trees, but now, in winter, the leaves have fallen and we're more exposed."	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/22/nx-s1-52687413/russia-ukraine-war-dro	2025/01/23	
Skeptical of Russia's data, some Western officials judge its economy by looking at Moscow from space	International-Russia	But in the 2023 image, the pools of light showing Moscow's suburbs appear smaller and less frequent than in the preinvasion image. "It's very clear that the Russian economy is definitely not as strong as Putin wants us to believe," Syantlesson said.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/skeptical-russias-data-western-officials-1	2025/01/23	
Russia is escalating its dangerous shadow war against NATO, and there are fears it could get a lot worse	International-Russia	It's definitely escalating from where it started and where we are now, Gabriellus Landsbergis, who recently stepped down after four years as Lithuania's foreign minister, told Business Insider. A longtime critic of Russia's destabilizing hybrid warfare activities, he said that Moscow's ambition has grown, and its approach has become increasingly more aggressive. ... The US Helsinki Commission, an independent government agency, has identified some 150 hybrid operations on NATO territory over the past three years that have been linked to Russia. These acts include critical infrastructure attacks, campaigns of violence, election interference, and weaponized migration.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/russia-escalating-dangerous-shadow-war	2025/01/23	
Trump gave pardons to hundreds of violent Jan. 6 rioters. Here's what they did	January Six	More than 1,500 people who had been charged in connection with the attack, received a "full, complete and unconditional pardon". 14 people – all of whom were linked to the Oath Keepers and Proud Boys, extremist groups that planned elements of the attack – received commutations. While those defendants' felony convictions will stand, Trump cleared the path for their imminent release from prison. Meanwhile, in federal court in Washington, D.C., Trump's new appointee at the Justice Department began filing motions to dismiss ongoing cases related to Jan. 6. ... Over 1,100 people had already pleaded guilty or been convicted at trial, and sentenced in connection with these cases. Most had finished their punishments, except for those who were serving longer sentences for engaging in violence at the Capitol, Graves said.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/21/nx-s1-5268919/trump-issues-jan-6-par	2025/01/22	
Trump rewrites the violence of January 6 and 'legitimizes future ones'	January Six	"The actions taken by the President disproportionately benefit the most violent among the mob," Graves said. If the criminal charges were meant to deter future acts of political violence, the pardons of more than 1,500 people do the opposite, experts said. "This is going beyond rewriting what January 6 was," said Robert Pape, the director of the Chicago Project on Security and Threats at the University of Chicago who has studied January 6 defendants. "This is about legitimating future January 6ths."	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/22/trump-january-6-par	2025/01/22	
House GOP launches new panel to investigate Jan. 6	January Six	Republicans hope that with allies soon to be leading the Justice Department and FBI, they will be able to dredge up new information that muddies the narrative about the deadly assault. "Our hope is we can work with Pam Bondi, Todd Blanche, Kash Patel when they're all confirmed," House Judiciary Committee chair Jim Jordan (R-Ohio).	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/22/house-republicans-jan-6-committee	2025/01/23	
'Very minor incidents': Trump defends January 6 pardons in first interview since inauguration	January Six	Donald Trump has described attacks on police officers at the US Capitol on January 6 2021 as "very minor incidents" as he sought to defend his decision to pardon the insurrectionists. The US president hinted that those who put him through "four years of hell" via criminal prosecutions should themselves be investigated, adding ominously that his predecessor Joe Biden made a mistake by not pardoning himself.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/23/donald-trump-sen-	2025/01/23	
Jan 6 rioter pardoned by Trump arrested again one day later	January Six	Daniel Charles Ball, one of the hundreds of January 6 rioters who was charged with a violent crime, had his case dismissed on Tuesday after President Donald Trump issued a sweeping pardon to rioters, but by Wednesday, Ball was arrested again. Ball, 39, was arrested in Washington D.C. on a firearm charge brought by a grand jury in Florida's Middle District Court less than a day after his case in connection to January 6, 2021, was dismissed.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/crime/jan-6-rioter-	2025/01/23	
Freed Capitol riot ringleaders regroup - and vow 'retribution'	January Six	The indictment, unveiled on Wednesday, alleges Ball possessed a firearm and ammunition in May 2023 despite being convicted of three felonies between 2017 and 2021. "We've made the decision four years ago not to tell the media what our structure is, but I'd suggest that the media should stop calling me 'ex-Proud Boy,'" he told reporters as he travelled to his home in Miami on Wednesday. ... After the Capitol riot and the arrest of the leaders, the Oath Keepers largely ceased operations while the Proud Boys fractured, retreating to their local chapters and keeping a relatively low profile. However in recent days, their channels on the chat app Telegram have been full of celebratory chatter along with barbs and slurs directed at opponents. Members have discussed regrouping and getting involved in efforts to deport immigrants – although the legal basis for doing so is unclear.	https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c20kxrpq92a	2025/01/23	
One of the Jan. 6 defendants has turned down Trump's pardon	January Six	President Trump this week issued pardons to more than 1,500 Jan. 6 defendants, but one 71-year-old woman turned down the president's offer of clemency, telling NPR it would be a dishonor to the truth of what happened that day. The plan involves meteorologists at The Weather Channel in Atlanta producing content for local stations across the country. The team under the new initiative will be led by Carl Parker, a meteorologist at The Weather Channel, and include some meteorologists from local TV stations moving to Atlanta, the media group said in a statement.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/23/g-s1-44457/pamela-hemphill-trump-par	2025/01/24	
Local meteorologists could face layoffs amid new initiative with The Weather Channel	Media- news	Zach Stanford, a former state coordinator for crisis information and disaster intelligence for the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management, said local meteorologists are the "obvious choice for life-saving local weather information" and serve critical roles in sharing other information such as wildfire perimeters and evacuations. "Local meteorologists on TV are a trusted face, not only because they know their science, but also because they're a member of that community," Stanford told NPR. "The community component has to be brought through to make sure that that critical service is not lost."	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/19/nx-s1-5267507/local-tv-meteorologists-	2025/01/21	
CNN and NBC News to lay off employees, CNBC reports	News media	CNN, a unit of Warner Bros Discovery, plans to lay off hundreds of employees on Thursday, as it refocuses the business around a global digital audience, CNBC reported on Wednesday, citing people familiar with the matter. Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-S.D.) is making good on his threat to keep the Senate working after hours, vowing to go straight through the weekend if Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) doesn't cut a deal to speed things up. Pete Hegseth for Defense is expected to get a final confirmation vote around 9pm ET on Friday, if Democrats take up the full 30 hours of debate time. Kristi Noem for Homeland Security is up next, with a cloture vote tomorrow and a final vote landing between 3 and 4am on Sunday. Scott Bessent for Treasury follows, then Sean Duffy for Transportation. Their final votes could be pushed into early next week.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/cnn-lay-off-hundreds-employees-214216	2025/01/23	
Thune plunges into weekend standoff over Trump confirmations	Political Cesspool	A sexting problem in the GOP could have kept Republicans from interrogating a key political target. The Washington Post reports that Republicans avoided subpoenaing Mark Meadows' former Chief of Staff Cassidy Hutchinson last year to avoid the embarrassing fallout of her testimony. An aide to House Speaker Mike Johnson worried Hutchinson could bring up sexually explicit texts from GOP representatives. Rep. Lauren Boebert's (R-Colo.) offer to take the newly pardoned Jan. 6 rioters on a guided tour of the U.S. Capitol felt like a moot point for many critics.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/24/thune-senate-cabinet-confirmations-	2025/01/24	
GOP lawmakers' lewd texts kept House from subpoenaing Hutchinson in Jan. 6 probe: report	Political Cesspool	Robert F. Kennedy Jr. says he will continue earning money from lawsuits once he is confirmed to run the Department of Health and Human Services, so long as the lawsuits don't directly involve the United States or the federal government's interests. The longtime environmental lawyer turned politician wrote in an ethics agreement that he would keep receiving fees under a previous consulting agreement with WiserBaum, a law firm that has an ongoing case against prescription drug maker Merck over the Gardasil vaccine.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/gop-lawmakers-lewd-texts-kept-0211404	2025/01/24	
Lauren Boebert Offers Guided Capitol Tours To Jan. 6 Rioters And Critics Make Same Brutal Point	Political Cesspool		https://www.yahoo.com/news/lauren-boebert-offers-guided-capitol-1114	2025/01/24	
RFK Jr. says he'll keep making money on anti-vaccine lawsuits while in office	Political Cesspool		https://www.yahoo.com/news/rfk-jr-says-ll-keep-191343350.html	2025/01/24	

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Republican senator goes to war on mascots designed to teach children about soil, pests and the US Mint	Political Cesspool	The bill, introduced by Republican Senator Joni Ernst of Iowa, seeks to eliminate mascots representing federal agencies like the "Mighty Minters," a fox and bird at the U.S. Mint. The child-friendly mascots (represented by images and costumed federal workers) are supposed to help visiting kids better understand the work of various agencies.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/mascot	2025/01/24	
Mississippi bill limiting men's sexual rights takes aim at laws targeting women	Political Karma	You have male-dominated legislatures in Mississippi and all over the country that pass laws that dictate what a woman can and cannot do with her body. Blackmon said in a written statement to the Clarion Ledger, part of the USA TODAY Network. "When a bill has been filed that would regulate what a man is able to do with his own body in his own home, it suddenly has people in an uproar. I am trying to figure out when it isn't okay for the government to dictate what you do in the privacy of your own home, apparently it is when the laws regulate men."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/mississippi-bill-limiting-mens-sexual-235c	2025/01/24	
Democrats nonplussed by their prospects want 'political exorcism'	Politics	Democrats are down in the dumps this inauguration weekend, and their hopes are not being lifted when they look at their prospects for winning back the White House in 2028. Two months of introspection and analysis have left party operatives feeling the best-known hopefuls could suffer the same fate as Harris. They say their party needs to find a candidate who better appeals to not only Democrats but the electorate as a whole. "They all talk out of the same playbook and that same playbook has failed again and again and again. We have a major f---ing problem," the strategist said of the list of potential candidates being bandied about. "And we're headed to a multi-cycle wilderness if we think any of those people can fix it."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/democrats-nonplussed-prospects-want-p	2025/01/20	
Rubio instructs staff to freeze passport applications with 'X' sex markers	Rainbow threats	The US state department has frozen all applications for passports with "X" sex markers and changes to gender identity on existing passports, following a new executive order signed by Donald Trump on his first day of office. "The policy of the United States is that an individual's sex is not changeable," the email read.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/23/trump-rubio-x-gende	2025/01/24	
Texas could join Louisiana with a law to require the Ten Commandments in classrooms	Religious bullshit	Rubio's directive states that "sex, and not gender, shall be used" in official documents including passports and consular report of birth abroad documents. Key Texas legislators say they intend to pass a law requiring public schools to display the Ten Commandments in classrooms. The move would add some big-state momentum to a trend started by Louisiana last year with a law that is blocked in court but has other states looking at similar proposals.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/20/tlx-s1-5230486/texas-ten-commandme	2025/01/21	
As Trump returns, state lawmakers pursue bills that would treat abortion as homicide	Reproductive rights	Legislators in at least four states have introduced bills this year that would change the legal definition of "homicide" to include abortion — proposals that pave the way for states to charge abortion patients with murder.	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/23/abortion-homicide-bills	2025/01/24	
Emergency contraception pill could be an alternative to mifepristone for abortions, study suggests	Reproductive rights	A new study suggests that a pill used for emergency contraception could be repurposed at a higher dose as an abortion drug, providing a possible alternative to mifepristone, one of the two drugs used in the most common type of abortion in the United States.	https://apnews.com/article/abortion-pill-mifepristone-ella-emergency-co	2025/01/24	
Behind the Curtain — Coming soon: Ph.D.-level super-agents	Technology- AI	We've learned that OpenAI CEO Sam Altman — who in September dubbed this "The Intelligence Age," and is in Washington this weekend for the inauguration — has scheduled a closed-door briefing for U.S. government officials in Washington on Jan. 30. "[P]robably in 2025," Zuckerberg told Joe Rogan 10 days ago, "we at Meta, as well as the other companies that are basically working on this, are going to have an AI that can effectively be a sort of midlevel engineer that you have at your company that can write code."	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/19/ai-superagent-openai-meta	2025/01/20	
Behind the Curtain: A chilling, "catastrophic" warning	Technology- AI	"[O]ver time, we'll get to the point where a lot of the code in our apps, and including the AI that we generate, is actually going to be built by AI engineers instead of people engineers," he added. The next few years will determine whether artificial intelligence leads to catastrophe — and whether China or America prevails in the AI arms race.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/18/biden-sullivan-ai-race-trump-china	2025/01/20	
More teens say they're using ChatGPT for schoolwork, a new study finds	technology- AI	Sullivan said in our phone interview that unlike previous dramatic technology advancements (atomic weapons, space, the internet), AI development sits outside of government and security clearances, and in the hands of private companies with the power of nation-states. Underscoring the gravity of his message, Sullivan spoke with an urgency and directness that were rarely heard during his decade-plus in public life.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/18/tlx-s1-43115/chatgpt-teen-school-homev	2025/01/20	
The U.S. is trying to unravel a hacking plot that targeted climate activists	Technology- Security	According to the survey, 26% of students ages 13-17 are using the artificial intelligence bot to help them with their assignments. That's double the number from 2023, when 13% reported the same habit when completing assignments. Comfort levels with using ChatGPT for different types of assignments vary among students: 54% found that using it to research new topics, for example, was an acceptable use of the tool. But only 18% said the same for using it to write an essay. A yearlong U.S. Justice Department investigation of a global hacking campaign that targeted prominent American climate activists took a turn in a London court this week amid an allegation that the hacking was ordered by a lobbying firm working for ExxonMobil. Both the lobbying firm and ExxonMobil have denied any awareness of or involvement with alleged hacking. The hacking was allegedly commissioned by a Washington, D.C., lobbying firm, according to a lawyer representing the U.S. government. The firm, in turn, was allegedly working on behalf of one of the world's largest oil and gas companies, based in Texas, that wanted to discredit groups and individuals involved in climate litigation, according to the lawyer for the U.S. government. In court documents, the Justice Department does not name either company.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/24/tlx-s1-5271530/hacking-investigation-c	2025/01/24	
Bulldozers kill man in tent in Atlanta clearing homeless camp near MLK's church	Tragic	City workers in Atlanta have killed a man living in a tent while clearing a homeless encampment with construction equipment near Martin Luther King's famous Georgia church. "The sweep, prior to which the city failed completely to check the tents, is a stopgap measure to try to project a false, sanitized vision of Atlanta," activists from the Housing Justice League said in a statement. "Taylor and everyone else living on the streets deserved much more than to be bulldozed out of the way for MLK Weekend festivities. Everyone deserves to live in dignity." Atlanta officials have not yet clarified how Taylor died. Witnesses told local media that bulldozers from Atlanta's department of public works were removing tents from the open area across the street from the church and ran over a man inside a tent who had not left the encampment on Old Wheat Street.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/18/atlanta-homeless-cr	2025/01/20	
At least 66 dead and 51 injured in a hotel fire at a ski resort in northwestern Turkey	Tragic	A fire at a 12-story hotel at a popular ski resort in northwestern Turkey on Tuesday killed at least 66 people, Turkey's Interior Minister said. Ali Yerlikaya said at least 51 other people were injured in the disaster that struck the Grand Kartal hotel in the resort of Kartalkaya, in Bolu province's Korgulu mountains, some 300 kilometers (185 miles) east of Istanbul. The fire occurred during the schools' semester break, when hotels in the region are packed.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/three-killed-hotel-blaze-turkish-05332733	2025/01/21	
Donald Trump, crypto billionaires	Trump Bullshit	The coin (technically a token that's issued on the Solana blockchain) has massively enriched Trump personally, enabled a mechanism for the crypto industry to funnel cash to him, and created a volatile financial asset that allows anyone in the world to financially speculate on Trump's political fortunes. The coin's official website, ... urges visitors to buy coins with either dollars or crypto in order to "Celebrate Our Win & Have Fun!" The coin is "not intended to be... an investment opportunity," per the site, which says that it "has nothing to do with any political campaign or any political office."	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/19/donald-trump-crypto-billionaire	2025/01/20	
3 Things Trump Wants You To Forget Before He Takes Power	Trump Bullshit	Here's what Trump might try to distance himself from, once he's back in office: 1: The Spark Of 'Stand Back, Stand By' As Trump promises to pardon Jan. 6 rioters who stormed the Capitol on his behalf, prosecutors, FBI agents and even Proud Boys who've testified in court have pointed to one comment from Trump in the lead-up to the 2020 election that helped spark the violence to come. 2: A Close Connection Between The Trump White House And An Extremist Group Testimony provided to the congressional committee investigating Jan. 6, as well as records, witness testimony and evidence from the Oath Keepers seditious conspiracy trial in 2022 showed that there were few degrees of separation between Trump and associates or members of the extremist groups that stormed the Capitol. 3: The January 6 Committee Was Properly Formed, According to a Trump-Appointed Judge The final report, released by the Jan. 6 committee in December 2022, detailed what its members, like Cheney, said showed an unprecedented effort to defraud the American people with "nonsense" allegations that were "designed to prey upon the patriotism of millions of men and women who love our country."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/3-things-trump-wants-forget-130003349.f	2025/01/20	
Pence to Kiss the Ring Where Trump's Supporters Set up Gallows	Trump Bullshit	Former Vice President Mike Pence will likely see Donald Trump sworn in as the 47th president in person Monday in the U.S. Capitol, where Trump's supporters scoured the halls four years ago chanting for Pence to be hanged for refusing to give in to Trump's demand that he help overturn the 2020 presidential election. Pence is planning on attending the inauguration, The New York Times reported Friday, citing two individuals with knowledge of his schedule, one of whom told the paper that the former vice president was invited by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies. That committee is comprised of three Democrats and three Republicans.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/pence-kiss-ring-where-trump-035039467	2025/01/20	
Trump tasks congressman with writing executive order, he could issue to halt offshore wind	Trump Bullshit	President-elect Donald Trump tasked a New Jersey congressman and vocal critic of offshore wind with writing an executive order he could issue to halt wind energy projects. Offshore wind is a major part of transitioning to an electric grid powered entirely by sources that don't emit carbon dioxide when generating electricity. The power sector is responsible for nearly a third of the nation's planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions. On the campaign trail, Trump vowed to end the offshore wind industry as soon as he returned to the White House. He wants to boost production of fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas and coal, which cause climate change, in order for the U.S. to have the lowest-cost energy and electricity of any nation in the world, he says.	https://apnews.com/article/trump-offshore-wind-climate-change-new-je	2025/01/20	
Trump's orders to unleash sweeping limits on immigration, asylum	Trump Bullshit	But Trump's emergency declaration — along with designating Mexican cartels as a terrorism threat — would clear the way for using the military to help combat illegal immigration, breaking historical policies for how U.S. forces have been used in the homeland.	https://thn.kiny.us/biden-pardons	2025/01/21	
Trump's "softening tone toward China" seen in inaugural address and TikTok action	Trump Bullshit	There's definitely a softening tone toward China, Lu Zhou, CEO of investment firm Vanquor, tells Axios after watching the speech. It looks like he "will take a more pragmatic economic approach towards China" this time around, she added. Mark Malek, chief investment officer of SiebertNXT, agreed that Trump appears to be moderating his stance toward China, which "of course Wall Street would love to see and the bond markets would love to see."	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/20/trump-china-inauguration-tiktok-iaanf	2025/01/21	
Biden-era policies on the Trump 2.0 chopping block	Trump Bullshit	Climate initiatives, LGBTQ+ protections and student loan forgiveness are among President Biden's biggest policy achievements that are at risk once Trump retakes the Oval Office.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/20/trump-biden-policies-reverse-execu	2025/01/21	

Headline	Category	Blurb	URL	Day	Search terms
		President-elect Trump won't impose broad tariffs on Day 1 of his presidency, and instead will order reviews of trade and currency imbalances, the Wall Street Journal reported Monday. ... Trump has vehemently denied any softening of his tariff plans in recent weeks, despite reports to the contrary. The memo could signal an overall more moderate approach, even as Trump continues to call tariffs "the greatest thing ever invented" and among "the most beautiful words" in the language. Shortly after being sworn in at high noon today, President-elect Trump plans to revoke security clearances of 51 former intelligence officials who signed a letter in 2020 saying emails from Hunter Biden's laptop carried "classic earmarks of a Russian information operation."	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/20/trump-tariffs-dollar-trade	2025/01/21	
Trump to hold off on tariffs, report says, cheering markets	Trump Bullshit				
Day 1: Trump to revoke security clearances of 51 former intelligence officials	Trump Bullshit		https://www.axios.com/2025/01/20/trump-revoke-security-clearances-in	2025/01/21	
		Declare a national emergency at the border "Clarify" the military's role in border security End "catch and release," continue building the wall, and end "Remain in Mexico" Designate criminal cartels as terrorists: Suspend refugee resettlement End asylum and close the border to those without legal status via proclamation End birthright citizenship Enhance vetting and screening "Protect American citizens against invasion" Restore the death penalty Defining 'sex' and ending DEI programs National energy emergency and "electric vehicle mandate"			
All of the Day 1 executive actions Trump has announced so far	Trump Bullshit		https://www.npr.org/2025/01/20/g-s1-436898/trump-inauguration-executi	2025/01/21	
		President Trump is expected to kick-start the process to revoke birthright citizenship after years of proposing the constitutional change as a way to reduce undocumented immigration. ... "Ending birthright citizenship would be a really huge change in how we handle immigration and the right to belong in the United States," said Julia Gelatt, associate director of the U.S. immigration policy program at the Migration Policy Institute, adding that this law contributes to the economic and educational success rates of immigrants' children. President Trump says he will declare a "national energy emergency" as one of his first acts as president, pledging to support the domestic production of fossil fuels. ... Declaring an energy emergency would be a first for the federal government, and it's unclear what exactly it would entail. ... The Brennan Center and E&E News took a look at historical uses of these powers. No president has ever declared a "national energy emergency," but regional "energy emergencies" were declared in the 1970s, when there were shortages of fossil fuels. Then-President Jimmy Carter gave state governors the authority to suspend some environmental regulations as a result, but urged them to "act with due care" because of the implications for public health, and suspend some rules only "as a last resort." ... But the U.S. is not currently facing a fuel shortage. The U.S. is a net exporter of fossil fuels, producing more oil and gas than any other country in the world, at any point in history, and production is growing slightly. Meanwhile many analysts currently project that the world as a whole is facing a near-term oversupply of oil and natural gas, where supply will increase faster than demand.	https://thn.tiny.us/sad-day-for-the-USA	2025/01/21	
Trump to make historic move toward revoking birthright citizenship	Trump Bullshit				
		A new 'Manifest Destiny' ? The resistance retreats A flurry of executive orders Among the slew of executive orders signed after reaching the White House Monday night, President Donald Trump formally withdrew the United States from the World Health Organization (WHO), saying the far-reaching pandemic monitoring organization had "ripped off" the U.S. The U.S. is the largest funder of the WHO, which monitors disease outbreaks around the world. The U.S. also majorly contributes to the WHO's work — including collaborations with the CDC and NIH on issues like cancer prevention and global health security.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/20/nx-s1-5268653/energy-emergency-trum	2025/01/21	
Trump plans to declare a 'national energy emergency.' What does that mean?	Trump Bullshit				
3 key takeaways from Trump's inauguration and 1st day back in office	Trump Bullshit		https://www.yahoo.com/news/3-key-takeaways-from-trumps-inaugurat	2025/01/21	
Trump withdraws US from World Health Organization, finishing what he started	Trump Bullshit		https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-withdraws-us-world-health-031703	2025/01/21	
Trump rescinds executive orders protecting diversity, LGBTQ rights	Trump Bullshit		https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-sign-orders-ending-diversity-14230	2025/01/21	
Donald Trump to declare federal government recognizes two sexes — male and female	Trump Bullshit		https://www.yahoo.com/news/donald-trump-declare-federal-governmen	2025/01/21	
		President-elect Donald Trump will declare shortly after taking office on Monday that the federal government only recognizes two sexes — male and female — a move that reverses protections for transgender people put in place under outgoing President Joe Biden. Within hours of taking office, Trump dared the courts, Congress and his fragmented opposition to stand in the way of what could be his most enduring legacy: a radical expansion of presidential power. He did so publicly and with a flourish — signing an initial batch of executive orders in front of a roaring crowd at Capitol One Arena, before returning to the White House. There, Trump signed a barrage of executive orders, announced that Canada and Mexico are likely to face 25% tariffs beginning Feb. 1, and pardoned roughly 1,500 Jan. 6 defendants. ... Still, new evidence has emerged to suggest that Trump — emboldened by his historic political comeback and a record-high approval rating — may be willing to circumvent or openly defy U.S. law in his second term. Trump 2.0 vs. Trump 1.0. The orders reflect, from the outside at least, something missing the first go-round. It's a methodical, sweeping approach enabled by four years of Trump-orbit and industry planning while out of power.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/21/trumps-executive-orders-authority-lir	2025/01/21	
Trump tests limits of presidential power with Day 1 barrage	Trump Bullshit				
Several themes apparent in Trump's Day 1 energy frenzy	Trump Bullshit		https://www.axios.com/2025/01/21/trump-day-1-energy-frenzy	2025/01/21	
		President Trump has signed an executive order attempting to end birthright citizenship in the U.S. — a right guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and affirmed by the Supreme Court more than 125 years ago. A coalition of civil rights and civil liberties groups filed a lawsuit on Monday night in an effort to halt the executive order. The order is also expected to face legal challenges from state attorneys general since it conflicts with decades of Supreme Court precedent and the 14th Amendment — with the AGs of California and New York among those indicating they would do so. President Trump is making good on his pre-election pledge to withdraw from the World Health Organization. In one of many orders issued after his inauguration, he announced the start of the process for terminating U.S. membership in the U.N. agency that oversees global health issues. It will take a year for Trump's pledge to become official. That's the time frame the U.S. set for any future withdrawal when it joined the global health body in 1948. In Trump's first term, he halted funding to WHO and initiated the process of withdrawing. But before the one-year mark had been reached, Biden took office and reversed course immediately.	https://www.npr.org/sections/goats-and-soda/2025/01/20/g-s1-42918/tr	2025/01/21	
Trump signs executive order aimed at ending birthright citizenship	Trump Bullshit		https://www.axios.com/2025/01/21/trump-birthright-citizenship-14th-am	2025/01/21	
Trump declares U.S. will withdraw from the World Health Organization	Trump Bullshit				
		Heads of all departments and agencies in the executive branch of Government shall, as soon as practicable, take all necessary steps to terminate remote work arrangements and require employees to return to work in-person at their respective duty stations on a full-time basis, provided that the department and agency heads shall make exemptions they deem necessary, the executive memo states. ... In a report to Congress issued last August, OPM noted that 54% of the 2.3 million civilians employed by the federal government work entirely in-person given the nature of their jobs. About 10%, or 228,000 employees, work entirely remotely. He also warned that given the success federal agencies have had consolidating unused office space and selling off properties that were costly to maintain, there may no longer be enough office space to accommodate an influx of on-site workers. ... The AFGE warned that the freeze will impair federal programs. ... "Make no mistake — this action is not about making the federal government run more efficiently but rather is about sowing chaos and targeting a group of patriotic Americans that President Trump openly calls crooked and dishonest," wrote Kelley.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/20/nx-s1-5268852/trump-telework-executi	2025/01/21	
Trump seeks to end telework for federal workers	Trump Bullshit				
		President Donald Trump is slashing a program that was used by the Biden administration to temporarily allow the entrance of more than half a million migrants fleeing Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. In an executive order signed Monday evening, Trump instructed the Department of Homeland Security to "terminate all categorical parole programs that are contrary to the policies of the United States established in my Executive Orders," including the humanitarian parole program for those four countries. Since the first U.S. census in 1790, no resident has ever been omitted from those numbers because of immigration status. And after the Civil War, the 14th Amendment has called for the population counts that determine each state's share of U.S. House seats and Electoral College votes to include the "whole number of persons in each state." Biden's now-revoked 2021 order affirmed the longstanding practice of including the total number of persons residing in each state in those census results. It was issued in response to Trump's attempt during the national tally in 2020 to exclude millions of U.S. residents without legal status. ... Conservative groups behind the "Project 2025" plan have included adding a citizenship question among their priorities for a conservative administration. And a growing number of Republican members of Congress, including Rep. Chuck Edwards of North Carolina, have introduced bills that call for using the next head count to tally non-U.S. citizens living in the country and then subtract some or all of those residents from what are known as the congressional apportionment counts.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/20/nx-s1-5268858/trump-humanitarian-par	2025/01/21	
Trump orders end of humanitarian parole for migrants of four countries	Trump Bullshit				
		Robert Salesses, deputy director of the Pentagon's Washington Headquarters Service, will fill in as acting secretary of defense, and three other career Defense Department civilians will be filling in as acting heads of the Army, Navy and Air Force. To serve in the post s, the incoming Trump administration needed senior executives at the Pentagon who had already been confirmed by the Senate. Salesses is a retired Marine who served in the Gulf War and earned a Bronze Star.	https://www.yaho.com/news/trump-names-acting-defense-secretary-1	2025/01/21	
Trump rescinds Biden's census order, clearing a path for reshaping election maps	Trump Bullshit				
Trump names acting defense secretary with Hegseth not yet confirmed	Trump Bullshit				

Headline	Category	Blurb	URL	Day	Search terms
Experts alarmed by Trump's crypto meme coins. 'America voted for corruption'	Trump Bulshit	Donald Trump was accused of corruption as he returned to the White House days after launching a multibillion-dollar cryptocurrency meme coin. Former government ethics officials and presidential experts said the venture amounted to a "shameful" conflict of interest. "There are shameful and major conflicts of interest with respect to his family business benefiting from his cryptocurrency policies," said James Thurber, the founder and former director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies. "America voted for corruption, and Trump is wasting no time delivering it," said Walter Shaub, the former director of the US Office of Government Ethics, who served under former presidents Barack Obama and Trump. "What was once a government ethics program, made partly of laws and parity of norms, is a smoldering crater." The White House was approached for comment.	https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/21/trump-meme-crypto	2025/01/21	
Trump's plans to axe US education department put marginalized students most at risk, experts warn	Trump Bulshit	In addition to nominating for education secretary the former WWE executive Linda McMahon, who served on Connecticut's state board of education for one year and has no other notable education experience, Trump has pledged to "close up" the department and "return" education rights to the states. Though Trump alone cannot eliminate the federal agency, as such an act requires congressional approval beyond a simple majority, experts have warned that any type of overhaul could disrupt the department's critical roles, especially for marginalized students. ... Investigating civil rights violations is a critical function of the department, carried out by their Office of Civil Rights (OCR). In 2023, OCR received a record 19,201 complaints, according to the department's annual report, with 45% of complaints relating to sex discrimination. Amid an onslaught of legislation targeting transgender youth last year, the OCR fielded several complaints from LGBTQ+ students against their school districts. ... Under Trump, the department could be underfunded or further understaffed, and offices such as OCR already struggle to investigate an increasing number of complaints. Disenfranchised students, including students of color and those with disabilities, who rely on Title I funding, would be affected as Trump could make further cuts to the underfunded program. "About 90% of school funding comes from local and state sources, but 10% comes from the federal government," said Pereira. "That 10% is oriented towards poor communities, communities that are disproportionately of color, where if that money went to go away overnight, those schools would be in a very difficult position."	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/21/trump-education-de	2025/01/21	
What is US birthright citizenship and what does Trump's executive order do?	Trump Bulshit	In a country where birthright citizenship regardless of lineage is a deeply held value, the president's attempt to cut off that right for future generations could create a permanent underclass, though policy change that would specifically target communities of color. ... The first line of the 14th amendment reads: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside." Known as the Citizenship Clause, this phrase – alongside a number of related statutes and regulations – establishes the modern basis for birthright citizenship. ... In fact, dozens of countries have a right to citizenship based on place of birth. Like the US, most of these countries are within the Western hemisphere, including Canada and Mexico. That said, birthright citizenship is less common in other regions of the world.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/21/birthright-citizenship	2025/01/21	
Can Trump really rename the Gulf of Mexico the Gulf of America?	Trump Bulshit	Notably, the executive order targets kids born to both unauthorized immigrants and people legally in the US on temporary visas. ... There is no formal international agreement or protocol for the naming of maritime areas, and no international body has the final word on maritime names, although the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) seeks to standardise names and resolve disputes. Unlike other measures announced by Trump on his first day as the 47th US president, the name change was not the subject of an executive order – although he said that would happen in "a short time from now". ... In theory, Trump action would be sufficient to change the Gulf's name in official documents within the US, but other countries would not be obliged to follow suit. "Because of the gravity and emergency of this present danger and imminent threat, it is necessary for the Armed Forces to take all appropriate action to assist the Department of Homeland Security in obtaining full operational control of the southern border," the executive order said. This despite a sharp drop in the last six months in the numbers of people crossing the border without authorization, after the Biden administration's crackdown on access. "Birthright – that's a big one," Trump told reporters, as he signed an order that attempts to deny automatic citizenship to the US-born children of undocumented immigrants, a guarantee bestowed by the 14th amendment. The president cannot unilaterally change the constitution, and civil rights groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), have already vowed immediately to challenge such a directive in court.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/20/trump-gulf-mexico-a	2025/01/21	
Trump declares national border emergency in immigration crackdown	Trump Bulshit	The order, which applies prospectively to children born 30 days after the measure's implementation, instructs federal agencies not to issue certain documents that would normally be provided to those born in the US, regardless of their parents' immigration status. Donald Trump has announced that the US will exit the World Health Organization and suspend all foreign aid for three months, in a move that will leave critical humanitarian work in jeopardy and threaten the global fight against infectious diseases. In a separate executive order, Trump announced a pause on foreign development assistance for 90 days pending a review, in a move that will leave aid organisations scrambling to see if they are affected.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/20/trump-immigration-a	2025/01/21	
'Sowing seeds for next pandemic': Trump order for US to exit WHO prompts alarm	Trump Bulshit	Members of the global health community said that Trump's decision could backfire on the US. ... "Trump could be sowing the seeds for the next pandemic." This was the moment it really hit home. Trump is back. The human wrecking ball who left a trail of chaos and division in his first four years has returned with a vengeance. America voted for this. People will get hurt. Monday's first batch of executive orders, contained in black folders, was also a reminder of Trump's insatiable appetite for spectacle. His swearing in and inauguration parade had been brought indoors because of extreme cold weather. Naturally he saw an opportunity to turn it into a reality TV show. Thanks to Trump, the US will join Iran, Libya and Yemen as the only four countries not party to the Paris agreement. Apparently, this is a great victory for the forgotten men and women of America. Once the orders were signed, the president celebrated by tossing the pens out into the crowd, setting off a scramble as if for a home run baseball.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/20/trump-executive-ord	2025/01/21	
Trump the wrecking ball brings chaos to order, executing a parade of grievances	Trump Bulshit	FACT FOCUS: A look at false and misleading claims. Trump made at inaugural events	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/21/donald-trump-inaug	2025/01/21	
	Trump Bulshit	Summary Laurence Rees, a lifelong and acclaimed historian of the Nazis, does not invoke this context as a British intellectual. He does not need to. The making of the "Nazi mind" from 1919 to 1945 is both enthralling and chilling on its own terms. As a "warning from history" in the age of Trump 2.0, it's compulsive reading. ... Here, Thompson's analysis morphs with Rees's "12 warnings". The evolution of Hitler's grip on the German people begins, says Rees, with three specific corruptions of democracy in the aftermath of the First World War: first, the spreading of conspiracy theories (about the role of the Jews in Germany's 1918 defeat); second, the promotion of a rhetorical "Them vs Us" narrative; and third, Hitler's self-invention as a heroic leader who would become a quasi-parental figure within the German psyche. Here, Thompson's analysis morphs with Rees's "12 warnings". The evolution of Hitler's grip on the German people begins, says Rees, with three specific corruptions of democracy in the aftermath of the First World War: first, the spreading of conspiracy theories (about the role of the Jews in Germany's 1918 defeat); second, the promotion of a rhetorical "Them vs Us" narrative; and third, Hitler's self-invention as a heroic leader who would become a quasi-parental figure within the German psyche. From the process of corrupting young people to finally seizing supreme power by conniving with the German elite, principally Hindenburg, Rees explains how Hitler ran his absolute dictatorship on surprisingly conventional lines. As Fuhrer, he eliminated human rights, terrorised the free press, diverted his voters (the Berlin Olympics became Goebbels's bread and circuses), and promoted a utopian fantasy about a new Holy Roman empire (shades of Maga here). U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday signed an executive order that he said aims to restore freedom of speech and end censorship, drawing fire from critics who point to his past actions threatening and suing journalists, critics and political opponents.	https://apnews.com/article/trump-inauguration-fact-check-b9201618988e	2025/01/21	
The nine warnings from history about the rise of the Nazis that already strike a chord	Trump Bulshit	U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday signed an executive order that he said aims to restore freedom of speech and end censorship, drawing fire from critics who point to his past actions threatening and suing journalists, critics and political opponents.	https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/features/elon-	2025/01/21	
Trump executive order on free speech draws criticism	Trump Bulshit	President-elect Trump is expected to reinstate a controversial policy soon after taking office that would further bar foreign nongovernmental organizations that perform, counsel on or provide information on abortions abroad from receiving U.S. funding.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-signs-executive-order-says-00192	2025/01/21	
Trump expected to quickly revive 'global gag rule' on abortion	Trump Bulshit	Incoming administration staffers are being warned to weigh the threat of a pricey legal defense and consider purchasing a form of legal insurance that would provide them a lawyer if needed, a protection that many now consider part of doing business after former Trump aides were hauled before congressional committees and grand juries over the past eight years, five former senior administration officials and longtime Washington advisers said.	https://thn.tiny.us/free-speech-as-long-as-its-praise	2025/01/21	
Former Trump aides are warning newbies: Buy legal insurance or risk a hefty bill	Trump Bulshit	The first woman to lead the U.S. Coast Guard has been relieved of her command, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) confirmed Tuesday.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/former-trump-aides-warning-newbies-130	2025/01/21	
Trump starts military overhaul by ousting first female Coast Guard commandant	Trump Bulshit	President Trump moved to obliterate the outer bounds of executive power Monday, igniting a series of constitutional showdowns that could curtail — or enable — his vision for a maximalist second term. ... Trump's blizzard of executive orders has exhilarated his base, who see it as proof that he's willing to steamroll the "Deep State" to fulfill his campaign promises. But his rapid consolidation of power has unnerved liberals, institutionalists and even some Republicans who are skeptical of big government.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/21/trump-military-coast-guard-commandant	2025/01/22	
Trump tests limits of presidential power with Day 1 barrage	Trump Bulshit		https://www.axios.com/2025/01/21/trumps-executive-orders-authority-lit	2025/01/22	

Headline	Category	Blurb	URL	Day	Search terms
Trump's federal health website scrubs 'abortion' search results	Trump Bulshit	On the second day of the second Trump administration, a search for the term "abortion" on the website for the federal Department of Health and Human Services brings up 166 results. The top hit is from January 24, 2020, during President Trump's first term, and is about how California violated the rights of two religious organizations that wanted to offer health plans that excluded coverage for abortion. Trying to sort the results to see the most recent items first returns no links at all and the message reads "search unreachable." Federal immigration authorities will be permitted to arrest people and carry out enforcement actions in and near places such as churches and schools, marking a departure from long-standing policy to avoid so-called sensitive areas. Acting Homeland Security Secretary Benjamin Huffman announced the end of two directives in a statement, giving agents more authority over whether they carry out enforcement and eliminating a legal pathway for migrants seeking to come to the United States. Immigration and Customs Enforcement set a policy in 2011 preventing agents from making arrests in sensitive locations. The Biden administration put out similar guidance. Immigrant advocates have shared concerns over stripping that policy, arguing that doing so would stoke fear in immigrant communities and keep children from going to school or people from seeking care at hospitals.	https://www.npr.org/sections/health-news/2025/01/21/nx-s1-5289	2025/01/22	reproductive rights
Trump says ICE can arrest people at churches and schools, directs agency to use 'common sense'	Trump Bulshit	Within hours of taking office, President Donald Trump terminated the Secret Service detail that was assigned to his former national security adviser, John Bolton. Bolton confirmed to CNN on Tuesday, Bolton, who left the Trump White House in November 2019, has required ongoing US Secret Service protection because of threats against him from Iran. Trump initially terminated his protection after he left his administration in the first term, but President Joe Biden restored it once he took office.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-says-ice-arrest-people-204630965	2025/01/22	
Trump terminates John Bolton's security detail within hours of taking office	Trump Bulshit	"The Justice Department filed criminal charges against an Iranian Revolutionary Guard official in 2022 for attempting to hire a hit man to target me. That threat remains today, as also demonstrated by the recent arrest of someone trying to arrange for President Trump's own assassination. The American people can judge for themselves which President made the right call." The Trump administration is directing agencies to move to close federal diversity, equity and inclusion offices and place DEI staff on paid leave by 5pm Wednesday ET ahead of being laid off. The OPM's memo instructs agencies to take offline all websites and social media accounts associated with DEI by the Wednesday deadline. The next action is for agencies to report on steps taken to implement the order by 12pm Thursday ET. This includes providing a "complete list" of DEI offices and workers as of Election Day 2024, according to the memo. The agencies must provide a written plan for "executing reduction-in-force action" for DEI employees by 5pm Friday ET, the memo says.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-terminates-john-bolton-security-19	2025/01/22	
Trump admin orders federal DEI staff to be placed on paid leave by Wednesday	Trump Bulshit	Homan said arrests of migrants without a criminal record could also be swept up by ICE, especially those living in sanctuary jurisdictions: cities where local law enforcement is prohibited from assisting federal immigration officials. He declined to provide specific information on locations. "There are going to be more collateral arrests in sanctuary cities because they forced us to go into the community and find the guy we are looking for," Homan said. The Trump administration fired four top officials at the Justice Department's Executive Office of Immigration Review, which oversees U.S. immigration courts, late Monday. The officials were the chief immigration judge, Sheila McNulty; the acting director of the Executive Office of Immigration Review, Mary Cheng; the office's general counsel, Jill Anderson; and its head of policy, Lauren Alder Reid. The four fired officials had decades of experience leading the nation's overburdened immigration courts. The Justice Department employs more than 700 immigration judges, who decide whether migrants seeking asylum in the United States can remain in the country legally. The court system faces a record backlog of more than 3 million cases. Trump announced his anti-trans order on his first day in office. Specifically, the order defines a female as a "a person belonging, at conception to the sex that produces the large reproductive cell," while a male is a "person belonging, at conception, to the sex that produces the small reproductive cell." But critics pointed out that genitalia at conception are "phenotypically female," according to the National Library of Medicine. For the first several weeks after conception, all human embryos follow a "female" developmental blueprint until the activation of the SRY gene initiates sexual differentiation. Embryos with an XY genotype will begin developing male traits linked to the Y chromosome at roughly six weeks. Before then, human embryos have only developed female traits linked to the X chromosome. One social media outlet scoffed that the order was based on "nonsense." Donald Trump is granting security clearances to new White House officials before they have completed the vetting process, according to reports.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/22/trump-dei-staff-leave-offices-close	2025/01/22	
Trump administration strips schools, churches of immigration enforcement protections	Trump Bulshit	Trump announced his anti-trans order on his first day in office. Specifically, the order defines a female as a "a person belonging, at conception to the sex that produces the large reproductive cell," while a male is a "person belonging, at conception, to the sex that produces the small reproductive cell." But critics pointed out that genitalia at conception are "phenotypically female," according to the National Library of Medicine. For the first several weeks after conception, all human embryos follow a "female" developmental blueprint until the activation of the SRY gene initiates sexual differentiation. Embryos with an XY genotype will begin developing male traits linked to the Y chromosome at roughly six weeks. Before then, human embryos have only developed female traits linked to the X chromosome. One social media outlet scoffed that the order was based on "nonsense." Donald Trump is granting security clearances to new White House officials before they have completed the vetting process, according to reports.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/21/nx-s1-5269899/trump-immigration-enfo	2025/01/22	
Trump fired four top immigration court officials hours after taking office	Trump Bulshit	President Donald Trump's political retribution tour began this week with firings of his perceived enemies inside the federal government, the targeting of former intelligence and national security officials and a directive to investigate actions by the Biden administration. The actions are all part of an initial wave of Trump's efforts to remove the so-called "deep state" from the federal government, as he and his team have pledged to ensure those working inside the government are loyal to the president. Trump has long complained that he was undermined by anti-Trump officials across the federal workforce in his first administration, particularly from the Justice Department and the intelligence community. But Trump has also made a show of the firings he's carried out, taking to his social media to boast about removing more than 1,000 Biden administration political appointees – and to announce the removal of four individuals from presidential advisory boards, including prominent critics such as former Joint Chiefs Chairman Mark Milley and José Andrés, the celebrity chef and restaurateur. President Donald Trump moved quickly to remake the Department of Homeland Security Tuesday, firing the heads of the Transportation Security Administration and Coast Guard before their terms are up and eliminated all the members of a key aviation security advisory group. Provisions within Trump's executive orders "are deeply troubling and will have negative consequences, many of which will harm the most vulnerable among us," Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a statement. 85% of white Evangelical Protestants, 59% of white Catholics and 57% of white non-Evangelical Protestants voted for Trump in the election, per 2024 polling from the nonpartisan Public Religion Research Institute. Meanwhile, 64% of Hispanic Protestants and 43% of Hispanic Catholics cast their vote for Trump. The White House has requested that the three Democratic members of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (PCLOB) resign by end of day Thursday or face termination, a source close to the agency confirmed. The move will dismantle a key intelligence program watchdog agency, leaving it with just one member as it prepares to help lawmakers navigate a highly contentious debate over whether to keep certain government surveillance powers intact. The Trump administration is screening the loyalty of approximately 160 career civil servants assigned to the National Security Council. The screenings are part of a larger push by President Trump to reshape the federal workforce that includes staffing the administration with loyalists and making it easier to fire civil servants. We will drill, baby, drill, Trump said in his inauguration speech and then later signed the emergency declaration and commented that it "means you can do whatever you have to do to get out of that problem." That is not accurate and many of the details for how this will be done are not included in the order. "It's striking that the emergency he seems to be declaring, is one of a lack of fossil fuel production," says Sam Sankar, an attorney and senior leader with Earthjustice. He says that's strange because "The U.S. is currently producing more oil and gas than any nation on the planet ever has in the history of human civilization." Trump's order doesn't mention the climate-heating effects of burning fossil fuels. Instead it says Americans are suffering from high energy prices. It also looks ahead to increasing electricity demand from technology, like artificial intelligence and says inadequate energy supplies "poses an imminent and growing threat to the United States' prosperity and national security." Within his first 48 hours back in office, Trump has signed several executive orders that threaten the healthcare of millions of Americans. Amid a flurry of executive orders, some of which were signed live on TV on inauguration night, the US president issued several orders that repeal Biden-era directives that had expanded healthcare access and options for lower-income and middle-class Americans. Those orders are expected to affect the medical insurance coverage for upwards of 20m people in the US. Those people whose coverage is now deemed at risk are the roughly 24 million Americans who have purchased their health insurance via the Affordable Care Act this year. The ACA, also known as Obamacare, helped to expand Medicaid benefits and provides affordable health insurance to millions of people. President Donald Trump on Wednesday floated abolishing the federal agency charged with the response to all kinds of natural disasters and other emergencies across the nation, and leave the task of responding to emergencies up to individual state governments instead. "The Democrats don't care about North Carolina. What they've done with FEMA is so bad. FEMA is a whole other discussion, because all it does is complicate everything," he insisted. "FEMA has not done their job for the last four years," said Trump, who added that the agency, which has been part of the Department of Homeland Security since 2003, had been "working really well" before he left office. Trump also threatened to cut off disaster aid for states that are run by Democrats if their state governments don't help with his effort to enact a mass deportation of non-white migrants who've come to the U.S. in recent years, including those who are awaiting court dates to argue claims for asylum.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-fired-four-top-immigration-2351517	2025/01/22	
Sarah McBride laughs off Trump's anti-trans executive order: 'He just declared everyone a woman'	Trump Bulshit		https://www.yahoo.com/news/sarah-mcbride-laughs-off-trump-0342125	2025/01/22	
Trump does out security clearances to unvetted officials	Trump bulshit		https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-does-security-clearances-unvetted	2025/01/22	
Trump touts political firings and retribution as he begins a government overhaul in his image	Trump bulshit		https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-touts-political-firings-retribution-22	2025/01/22	
Trump fires heads of TSA, Coast Guard and guts key aviation safety advisory committee	Trump bulshit		https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-fires-heads-tsa-coast-224441644	2025/01/22	
Trump's immigration orders rebuked by Christian leaders	Trump bulshit		https://www.axios.com/2025/01/22/trump-immigration-religious-leaders	2025/01/23	
White House asks key government privacy watchdogs to resign	Trump bulshit		https://www.axios.com/2025/01/22/white-house-pclob-democrats-termi	2025/01/23	
National Security Council staffers grilled about loyalty to Trump	Trump bulshit		https://www.axios.com/2025/01/22/trump-national-security-council-civil	2025/01/23	
Trump's energy emergency is a gift to fossil fuel firms. It's likely headed to court	Trump Bulshit		https://www.npr.org/2025/01/22/nx-s1-5269717/trump-energy-emergan	2025/01/23	
Trump executive orders threaten healthcare of millions of Americans	Trump Bulshit		https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/22/trump-executive-ord	2025/01/23	
Trump claims FEMA is getting 'in the way' and pitches abolishing it during first interview since return to White House	Trump Bulshit		https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-f	2025/01/23	

Headline	Category	Blurb	URL	Day	Search terms
		Trump repeatedly claimed throughout his campaign and after his White House victory that he could end Russia's war in Ukraine in one day. Through his campaign, Trump promised to reform the American auto industry, claiming it would be "fueled by American energy" and built by US workers on his "first day in office." But, Trump did not issue any executive orders to achieve these goals. The president did indeed issue a sweeping anti-trans executive order denying the existence of transgender, nonbinary and intersex people hours after taking office. However, he did not issue an order addressing "critical race theory" in schools Trump previously promised to put 25 percent tariffs on Mexico and Canada day one. Trump has made a slew of much more vague promises for day one that he does not appear to have kept. These include ending "troubles for Hispanic Americans," canceling "every policy harmful to farmworkers," releasing a full list of Supreme Court nominee picks and "turning the country around," Axios reports.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-	2025/01/23	
What did Trump not do on Day 1 that he promised?	Trump Bulshit	Summary	https://www.yahoo.com/news/everything-trump-did-first-executive-1805	2025/01/23	
Everything Trump did in the first executive orders and actions of his presidency	Trump Bulshit	Federal employees received emails Wednesday warning that they could face repercussions if they do not report on co-workers who work in diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility positions that might have gone unnoticed by government supervisors.			
Federal employees are told to name colleagues who work in DEI roles or risk 'adverse consequences'	Trump Bulshit	"We are aware of efforts by some in government to disguise these programs by using coded or imprecise language," said emails sent to government employees and obtained by NBC News.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/federal-employees-told-name-colleagues	2025/01/23	trump brown shirts
Trump says he will "demand" interest rates come down, setting up clash with Fed	Trump Bulshit	President Trump said in a virtual address at the World Economic Forum on Thursday that he will mandate the Federal Reserve lower interest rates imminently, a threat that undermines the Federal Reserve's political independence.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/23/trump-davos-world-economic-forum	2025/01/24	
Trump pardons 23 anti-abortion activists on eve of March for Life rally	Trump Bulshit	President Trump signed pardons on Thursday for 23 anti-abortion protesters who were convicted of illegally blocking a reproductive health clinic in Washington, D.C.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/24/trump-pardons-anti-abortion-activist	2025/01/24	
		The attack on DEI from the Trump administration could set back recent progress for disabled workers, particularly within the federal workforce, according to advocates and legal experts. People with disabilities face obstacles in landing jobs, but their employment rates soared in the wake of the pandemic as remote work became more common. At the same time there was a big push within the federal government to hire folks with disabilities. Now both these vectors are getting pushback. ... Accessibility matters for disabled folks, who need accommodations to be able to work, like software that allows visually impaired people to read computer monitors, or desk setups that allow for wheelchairs. Trump reversed a 2021 Biden order that prioritized, among other things, making the federal workplace more accessible for employees, part of a push that first gained steam in the Obama administration, said Mia Ives-Rublee, senior director of the disability justice initiative at the Center for American Progress.			
Trump's DEI orders may halt progress for disabled workers	Trump Bulshit	A House Republican on Thursday introduced a proposed change to the Constitution that would allow President Trump to seek a third term in office.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/24/dei-orders-disabled-workers-telewor	2025/01/24	
		Rep. Andy Ogles (R-Tenn.) said Thursday he is introducing a two-page joint resolution to amend the 22nd Amendment, which sets the current two-term limit for presidents. Ogles' amendment would allow any president to serve a third term if their first two terms were non-consecutive. The text of the amendment would still prohibit a third term if the first two were consecutive — prohibiting former Presidents Bush, Obama and Clinton from running again — or a third full term for anyone who has served more than two years of someone else's term.			
House GOP measure would let Trump seek third term "Blatantly unconstitutional": Judge blocks Trump's birtheright citizenship order	Trump Bulshit	President Trump's executive order on birthright citizenship is "blatantly unconstitutional," a federal judge said Thursday, temporarily blocking it nationwide, multiple outlets reported.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/24/trump-third-term-republican-constitu	2025/01/24	
		President Donald Trump will tour damage on Friday caused by wildfires in Los Angeles on Friday as he continues to feud with California Gov. Gavin Newsom over his handling of the disaster and federal aid. California officials have repeatedly refuted Trump's assertions. Trump's claims that measures to protect the delta smelt, an endangered fish, upstate affected L.A.'s water supply is false, according to Ashley Overhouse, a California water policy adviser for the nonprofit conservation organization Defenders of Wildlife.			
Trump plans visit to LA wildfire zones, pushes to withhold aid	Trump Bulshit	Overhouse told ABC News that even the most protective regulations for delta smelt, during former President Barack Obama's administration, accounted for only about 1.2% of additional outflow.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-plans-visit-la-wildfire-100724869-h	2025/01/24	
		Trump's latest money-making moves are raising alarms among ethics watchdogs who say that, just days into his presidency, the Republican appears poised to benefit financially from his final term in office in new and lucrative ways. ... "This time, it feels like the gloves are off, and they have no intention of comporting themselves with the decorum and ethical standards of other administrations," Gilbert said. "They truly mean to make as much as they can on the backs of the American taxpayer."			
The gloves are off: Trump appears poised to cash in from his presidency in new ways	Trump Bulshit	US health agency employees are now banned from nearly all travel and certain agencies and programs have been ordered to stop issuing new contracts and grants until further notice.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/gloves-off-trump-appears-poised-120058	2025/01/24	
		The limits on travel and spending, announced internally on Wednesday, add to previous indefinite halts on external communications, including publishing new reports or even posting to social media, and on reviewing and approving new medical research, a nearly \$50bn industry in the US. Employees of the 13 agencies overseen by US Health and Human Services (HHS) may only travel to return from assignments or to escape life-threatening situations. That means regular meetings with state and local health officials, training sessions and grant reviews are now on hold.			
Travel grant and funding cuts 'stifling' US health agencies in new Trump era	Trump Bulshit	Shifting the burden of disaster aid to the states, an idea outlined by the rightwing Project 2025 manifesto before the election, would hit Republican-leaning states hardest, federal spending figures suggest.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/23/us-health-agencies	2025/01/24	
		Since 2015, states that voted for Trump last year have received \$31bn in assistance from Fema, with storm-prone Florida, Texas and Louisiana leading the way, compared with just \$7bn for states that voted Democratic. US territories have been able to get \$27bn in Fema funding, a figure admired by the disastrous Hurricane Maria, which hit Puerto Rico in 2017.			
Setting us up for catastrophe: alarm at Trump attack on federal disaster agency	Trump Bulshit	As Trump prepares to retake power, Bannon is celebrating, while also debating tech billionaires over the new administration's approach to immigration. Bannon says he is part of a populist revolution, while a glance at the inauguration might suggest the opposite is happening. Monday's attendees are expected to include three of the richest and most influential men in the world: Amazon's Jeff Bezos, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, and Tesla and X CEO Elon Musk.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/23/trump-fema-natural	2025/01/24	
		Bannon calls them "oligarchs" — the same word President Biden used in his farewell address last week — and his recent social media battle with Musk shows some of the differences in Trump's coalition. Bannon is seeking crackdowns on both illegal and legal immigration, as well as confrontation with China. Musk, the South African immigrant who does much business in China, would seem to personify the "globalists" that Trump's movement rails against, but also played a significant and costly role in Trump's victory.			
Steve Bannon says MAGA populism will win — as Trump is surrounded by billionaires	Trump Cesspool	In the farms and fields of Darke and Shelby counties in western Ohio, Donald Trump enjoys near-unfettered support. In the 5 November election, more than 80% of voters here backed the president-elect — the highest rates of any counties in Ohio.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/19/hx-a1-5254112/donald-trump-elon-musk	2025/01/20	
		About 90m acres of land — an area larger than Greece — is used to produce corn in the US every year. About 8% of that is used to produce corn sweeteners, say experts. ... Several corn growers and Republican party voters in Ohio's Darke and Shelby counties declined to offer their views on Kennedy's potential appointment. One grower interviewed declined to share what candidate they voted for in the November presidential election.			
RFK Jr's vow to ban syrup sows concern among corn farmers in Trump heartland	Trump Cesspool	Other farmers have expressed concern about speaking in critical terms of President-elect Trump or Kennedy for fear of being turned down for subsidy programs or agriculture loans from the US Department of Agriculture under the incoming administration.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/rfk-jr-vow-ban-syrup-130026854.html	2025/01/20	
		Vivek Ramaswamy plans to bail on President-elect Donald Trump's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to focus on his ambitions to become Governor of Ohio, according to reports. Sources close to the situation told CBS News that his counterpart at the newly-formed panel, billionaire Elon Musk, has undercut Ramaswamy for much of the last few weeks. "Vivek has worn out his welcome," a Trumpworld source told the network.			
Vivek Ramaswamy Plans to Bail on MAGA Pal Musk at DOGE	Trump Cesspool	Ramaswamy was tasked with the deregulation file, while "big picture" issues were left to Musk. With the Tesla and SpaceX CEO potentially on his own at the top of the DOGE hierarchy, some inside Trumpworld told the outlet Musk will be able to proceed unshambled.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/vivek-may-bail-maga-pal-193415549.htm	2025/01/20	
		When thousands of National Guard forces and law enforcement officers locked down Washington during racial protests and the Jan. 6 riot four years ago, the blur of camouflage and helmets made it nearly impossible to tell the difference between cops and troops. This year's inauguration will be different. National Guard leaders have authorized the use of a special shoulder patch with the Guard motto "Always Ready. Always There," to ensure that people coming to the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump on Monday will know who is who.			
Guard troops will wear a special patch at Trump's inauguration to make it clear they aren't police	Trump Cesspool	"It's tough these days where it feels like every law enforcement agency and everybody out there wants to wear the same camouflage pattern that I'm wearing," Doane said. "There's a very, very long tradition in our country about discomfort with the military policing a population, and we want to stay in step with that."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/guard-troops-wear-special-patch-132109	2025/01/20	
It's not clear who will lead the Pentagon when Trump takes office. What happens then?	Trump Cesspool	As of Friday, officials said they had not yet heard who will become the acting defense secretary. Officials said the military chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force were getting ready to step in as acting service secretaries — a rare move — because no civilians had been named or, in some cases, had turned down the opportunity.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/not-clear-lead-pentagon-trump-12542048	2025/01/20	
Trump border czar: 'We are going to take the handcuffs off ICE' after inauguration	Trump Cesspool	"ICE is finally going to go out and do their job. We're going to take the handcuffs off ICE and let them go arrest criminal aliens. That's what's going to happen," Homan said during his Friday night appearance on Fox News' "Jesse Waters Primetime."	https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-border-czar-going-handcuffs-1525	2025/01/20	

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Senate panels move fast on Ratcliffe, Rubio	Trump Cesspool	A Trump loyalist, Ratcliffe faced accusations of politicizing his post as director of national intelligence in Trump's first term. He's vowed to eliminate political biases and "wokeness" in the agency's workforce policies and instead focus on "the mission." In announcing Ratcliffe's selection, Trump thanked him for "exposing fake Russian collusion" and "telling the truth" about Hunter Biden's laptop — signs the president-elect sees him as aligned with his political goals. So far, he has selected at least 19 former Fox News hosts, journalists and commentators for senior positions in his second White House term. ...	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/20/john-ratcliffe-cia-intel-marco-20250120	2025/01/21	
Trump taps 19 Fox pundits, personalities and producers for second term	Trump Cesspool	"It's ironic that as much as President Trump has criticized Fox News over the last few years for being allegedly unfair to him, he's still apparently enamored with the bright lights and star power of so many of the Fox News television hosts," former Fox & Friends host Gretchen Carlson tells NPR. He promised to and he did: on day one of his second term, President Donald Trump pardoned almost all of the nearly 1,600 Jan. 6 rioters. About 140 of them were from Florida. Not everyone got a pardon. Fourteen people involved from across the country who were charged with seditious conspiracy, including top members of two militia groups — the Oath Keepers and the Proud Boys — had their sentences commuted instead. Several Florida names are on that list, including Joe Biggs of Ormond Beach, the leader of the Volusia County Proud Boys, and Oath Keepers Joseph Hackett, Kenneth Harrelson, Kelly Meggs and David Moerschel. The Proud Boys national chairman, Enrique Tarrio of Miami, who received the longest sentence handed down in connection with the insurrection (22 years), received a pardon.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/20/nx-s1-5268791/fox-news-trump-inauguration	2025/01/21	
Trump pardons Jan. 6 Florida rioters including Enrique Tarrio, commutes sentence for Joe Biggs	Trump Cesspool	The Senate Armed Services Committee has voted in favor of Pete Hegseth, President Donald Trump's pick to lead the Pentagon. "There's too much red tape, there are too many stumbling blocks, there are too many boxes to check and the bureaucracy has become creaky over time," Wicker said. "So this is part of the Trump Administration's mandate to shake things up and do things differently." Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and a member of the Armed Services Committee, contends Republicans failed to vet Hegseth sufficiently.	https://thn.ltn.us/next-pandemic-incoming	2025/01/21	
Armed Services Committee approves Donald Trump's defense secretary nominee Pete Hegseth	Trump Cesspool	"Senate Republicans are rushing through the most unqualified nominee for U.S. secretary of Defense in modern history," Warren said in a statement. "This confirmation process has made a mockery of the Senate's constitutional responsibility with profound national security consequences." An eccentric former Democratic congresswoman from Hawaii, who switched to MAGA Republican after losing a far-fetched bid for the presidency, Gabbard's utter lack of experience at running an organization of any size—much less coordinating all 18 U.S. intelligence agencies—constitutes only the least compelling cause for greeting her nomination with laughter or tears. To the extent she discusses foreign affairs, she tends to parrot Kremlin propaganda points. Her own staff have revealed that she frequently cites RT, Moscow's main outlet for these points, as her source of news—especially about the war in Ukraine and the role of NATO, including the lie that the U.S. has set up bioweapons labs on Ukrainian soil. The host of Channel One, the Russian government's main TV outlet, reacted with glee to Gabbard's nomination, calling her "our girlfriend." But the DNI can wield enormous power, if he or she decides to grasp it. Gabbard would have access to all intelligence, not just from the various U.S. agencies but from allies that share their intel with us. She would be in charge of national intelligence estimates on specific issues. And she would both organize and present the "President's Daily Briefing"—the summary of worldwide threats and trends compiled for the president on a daily basis or however often it's desired.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/armed-services-committee-approves-don-20250120	2025/01/21	
The Terrifying Power Now in the Hands of One of Trump's Most Dangerous Picks	Trump Cesspool	In other words, the very presence of Tulsi Gabbard at the top of the "free world's" intelligence community will be widely seen—by friends, foes, and those in between—as a risk to U.S. security. Corporate America has a new top priority: Give Donald Trump what he wants. The next four years will be dominated not by technocratic rule of law but rather by the whims of America's most mercurial president. Getting into his good graces — and staying there — has taken on existential importance for many corporations. The big picture: Trump is probably the most transactional president in U.S. history, and a seat at his table can be worth billions of dollars. (Even more in the case of first buddy Elon Musk, whose net worth has increased by some \$170 billion since Election Day.)	https://www.yahoo.com/news/terrifying-power-now-tulsi-gabbard-10340-20250120	2025/01/21	
Corporate America's new first commandment: Honor thy Trump	Trump Cesspool	President Trump's Day 1 move to begin the process of withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement for a second time sends a clear signal to international partners that the U.S. is hot and cold on climate action. To have the U.S., which is the second-largest emitter behind China, exit the agreement even temporarily has the potential for other countries to start viewing the U.S. as an unreliable partner on climate and potentially other issues as well.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/21/trump-crypto-liktok-musk-business-20250120	2025/01/21	
America's second Paris withdrawal is not like the first	Trump Cesspool	I think we need to roll our sleeves up, deliver reforms and make sure that our dollars are going to programs within the U.N. that work, that have a basis in the rule of law, that have a basis in transparency and accountability and strength in our national security, in our partnerships, she said. Democrats at the hearing, like Maryland Sen. Chris Van Hollen, raised concerns about Trump's initial foreign policy moves — taking the U.S. out of the Paris Climate accord and the WHO. Van Hollen said these actions will only cede ground to U.S. adversaries in the United Nations.	https://www.axios.com/2025/01/21/us-paris-withdrawal-effects-second-20250120	2025/01/21	
Trump's pick for U.N. ambassador is Elise Stefanik. Here's what to know	Trump Cesspool	"Sadly, President Trump's decision to leave the World Health Organization will do just that — it will make us less safe," he said. "Viruses don't respect national boundaries." Pete Hegseth, President Trump's nominee to be defense secretary, had a problem with alcohol abuse and his behavior caused his second wife, Samantha, to fear for her safety, his former sister-in-law told Senate lawmakers in a sworn affidavit. ...	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/21/nx-s1-5258523/trump-cabinet-picks-eli-20250120	2025/01/22	
Affidavit by Hegseth's ex-sister-in-law makes new claims about his behavior	Trump Cesspool	Danielle Hegseth, Pete Hegseth's former sister-in-law, submitted the affidavit in response to a letter from Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., who sought her "personal knowledge about Mr. Hegseth's fitness to occupy this important position." In the sworn affidavit, Danielle Hegseth says it is her "personal opinion that Hegseth is unfit for the position of secretary of defense." "As I have said for months, the reports of Mr. Hegseth's history of alleged sexual assault, alcohol abuse, and public misconduct necessitate an exhaustive background investigation," Reed, the ranking member on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said in a statement. "I have been concerned that the background check process has been inadequate, and this sworn affidavit confirms that fact." Several Republican Senators dismissed the allegations Tuesday night, pointing out that the on the record statement comes after the public hearing into Hegseth's nomination and suggest that it is part of political campaign on the eve of the Senate voting to confirm Hegseth. Many others said they had not seen the document.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/21/nx-s1-5270039/hegseth-senators-affidavit-20250121	2025/01/22	
Trump pardons dark web marketplace creator Ross Ulbricht	Trump Cesspool	President Trump fulfilled a campaign promise to Libertarian supporters on his second day back in office by pardoning the former creator and owner of an underground e-commerce website known for drug trafficking. ...	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/21/nx-s1-5270051/trump-pardons-dark-web-20250121	2025/01/22	
Judge Aileen Cannon says Justice Department can't share Trump classified documents report with Congress	Trump Cesspool	Judge Aileen Cannon on Tuesday extended the hold she has placed blocking the Justice Department from sharing special counsel Jack Smith's report on his investigation into President Donald Trump's mishandling of classified documents with members of Congress. On Tuesday, Cannon embraced arguments put forward by Trump's former co-defendants Walt Nauta and Carlos de Oliveira — two employees of his charged with obstruction-related crimes — that even limited disclosure could prejudice them if their cases ever went to trial. Cannon dismissed the prosecution last summer on the grounds that Smith was unconstitutionally appointed, but that ruling on appeal, leaving the possibility that the charges could be revived.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/judge-aileen-cannon-says-justice-152742-20250121	2025/01/22	
'QAnon Shaman' Jacob Chansley says he will 'buy some motha f---in guns' after Trump pardon	Trump Cesspool	The spear-wielding, bare-chested Jan. 6 rioter known as the "Qanon Shaman" has been pardoned by Donald Trump and says he plans to "buy some motha f---in guns" in order to celebrate his freedom. There's a dominant narrative in the media about why tech billionaires are sucking up to Donald Trump: Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg, and Jeff Bezos, all of whom have descended on the nation's capital for the presidential inauguration, either happily support or have largely acquiesced to Trump because they think he'll offer lower taxes and friendlier regulations. In other words, it's just about protecting their own selfish business interests. That narrative is not exactly wrong — Trump has in fact promised massive tax cuts for billionaires — but it leaves out the deeper, darker forces at work here. For the tech bros — or as some say, the broligarchs — this is about much more than just maintaining and growing their riches. It's about ideology. An ideology inspired by science fiction and fantasy. An ideology that says they are supermen, and supermen should not be subject to rules, because they're doing something incredibly important: remaking the world in their image.	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/qanon-shaman-20250121	2025/01/22	
The broligarchs have a vision for the new Trump term. It's darker than you think.	Trump Cesspool	It's this ideology that makes MAGA a godsend for the broligarchs, who include Musk, Zuck, and Bezos as well as the venture capitalists Peter Thiel and Marc Andreessen. That's because MAGA is all about granting unchecked power to the powerful. In a series of newly unearthed podcasts, Pete Hegseth, Donald Trump's pick for defense secretary, appears to endorse the theocratic and authoritarian doctrine of "sphere sovereignty", a worldview derived from the extremist beliefs of Christian reconstructionism (CR) and espoused by churches aligned with far-right Idaho pastor Douglas Wilson. In the recordings, Hegseth rails against "cultural Marxism", feminism, "critical race theory", and even democracy itself, which he says "our founders blatantly rejected as being completely dangerous".	https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/395646/trump-inauguration-broligarchs-20250121	2025/01/23	
Revealed: Trump Pentagon nominee endorses extremist Christian doctrine on podcast	Trump Cesspool	North Carolina Appeals Court Judge Jefferson Griffin's legal effort to contest his electoral loss in the state's tight Supreme Court race, in which he trails incumbent Justice Allison Riggs by just over 700 votes, threatens to upend the already contentious state of democracy in North Carolina — and puts the entire nation at further risk of democratic erosion, legal experts say.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/24/trump-pete-hegseth-20250124	2025/01/24	
"A troubling trend": Experts say Republicans are continuing to undermine democracy in North Carolina	Voting Fuckery		https://www.yahoo.com/news/troubling-trend-experts-republicans-contin-20250120	2025/01/20	

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Ballots from Helene-damaged areas are among the 65,000 that Republicans want to throw out in North Carolina	Voting Fuckery	The GOP is trying to overturn a closely watched North Carolina Supreme Court election where two recounts show Democratic Justice Allison Riggs holding on to her seat, with 734 votes putting her ahead of her GOP opponent, Judge Jefferson Griffin. As they've press forward in multiple legal forums, Republicans have not put forward evidence that voter fraud occurred in the election. For the vast majority of the ballots being challenged, they're instead relying on what likely amounts to clerical errors by election officials to argue that those votes should be thrown out. They're also challenging a few thousand overseas ballots, including ballots cast by military members and their families abroad, and for some ballots, they're using arguments that were rejected by courts in pre-election court battles in the state. ... The GOP approach is "undemocratic" and "radical," said David Becker, a former DOJ attorney and election law expert who, from his perch leading the Center for Election Innovation & Research, advises state election officials of both parties.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/ballots-helene-damaged-areas-among-16	2025/01/24	
Big oil spent \$445m in last election cycle to influence Trump and Congress, report says	Voting Fuckery	Big oil spent a stunning \$445m throughout the last election cycle to influence Donald Trump and Congress, a new analysis has found. That figure includes funding from January 2023 and November 2024 for political donations, lobbying and advertising to support elected officials and specific policies. Because it does not include money funneled through dark-money groups – which do not have to reveal their donors – it is almost certainly a vast understatement, says the report from green advocacy group Climate Power, which is based on campaign finance disclosures and advertising industry data.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/23/big-oil-445m-trump	2025/01/24	
Trump enlists attorney general to investigate Biden administration	Weaponizing the office	Fossil fuel interests poured \$96m into Donald Trump's re-election campaign and affiliated political action committees, the report found. Much of that was covered by megadonor oil billionaires, such as the fracking magnate Harold Hamm, the pipeline mogul Kelcy Warren and the drilling tycoon Jeffery Hildebrand. Donald Trump has tasked the attorney general in two executive orders to conduct far-reaching investigations into the previous administration, using the weight of the justice department to pursue what are effectively politically charged reviews into his personal grievances. But the weaponization order was particularly unusual in making the incoming attorney general examine alleged misconduct at the justice department – rather than the department's office of professional responsibility or inspector general – and then to deliver findings to a political appointee at the White House.	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/24/trump-executive-ord	2025/01/24	
'Passive House' Survives Fire in California: How It Avoided Total Destruction, According to Architect	Weird world	To qualify officially as a passive house, a home must meet certain criteria set by the International Passive House Association. The dwelling must consume 86% less energy for heating and 46% less for cooling compared with other code-compliant buildings in the same climate. To reduce or even eliminate the need for heat in the winter and air conditioning in the summer, a passive house is built airtight, using strong exterior insulation, triple-pane windows, and construction methods that ensure no heat is transferred across the exterior of the building. No outdoor air seeps in, and no indoor air escapes.	https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/passive-house-survives-fire-california-6	2025/01/20	
Japan aquarium cheers up lonely sunfish by taping photos of human faces to its tank	Weird world	Do fish get lonely? Apparently so, according to staff at an aquarium in Japan, who have provided cut-out human companions for a solitary sunfish they noticed had started to look unwell. ... Aquarium staff feared the sunfish, which had been caught in Japanese coastal waters, was suffering from parasites or digestive problems. One, however, suggested it might be struggling to adapt to the absence of visitors as well as the noise and vibrations made by the construction work. Their colleagues were sceptical, but the theory proved correct. A day after staff taped large photos of human faces attached to a row of uniforms on the side of the tank, the fish regained its appetite and looked generally more content, according to the Mainichi Shimbun.	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/21/japan-shimonoseki-aq	2025/01/21	
Cat becomes accidental frequent flyer after being left on a plane by mistake	Weird world	A Maine Coon cat named Mittens became an accidental jetsetter this month when her cage was overlooked in a plane cargo hold and she made three trips in 24 hours between New Zealand and Australia.	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/22/mittens-maine-coon-ca	2025/01/22	
The waiting stinks, but Sydney may soon enjoy the aroma of its 'corpse flower'	Weird world	Staff and visitors at Australia's Royal Botanic Garden Sydney are hoping to see — and smell — a rare event that could come at any moment: the blooming of a giant anemorphophallus titanum, also known as the "corpse flower." The flower's Latin scientific name translates as "giant, misshapen penis."	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/22/nx-s1-5270914/corpse-flower-patricia-s	2025/01/23	
These Corals Are Made for Walking	Weird world	But there's another, lesser-known and understudied kind of coral that's completely solitary. And some of these animals, known as mushroom corals, can walk. One side of the aquarium had a sliver of white light, like you would find in shallow coastal habitats. The other had a small beam of blue light, like you would find in slightly deeper areas of the ocean. In each of three trials, the mushroom corals showed a strong preference for the blue light, inching their way toward it, Mr. Lewis reported Wednesday in the journal PLoS One.	https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/22/science/walking-coral.html	2025/01/23	
Watch: Moose rescued after falling through ice into New York lake	Weird world	As for how a mushroom coral actually moves, Mr. Lewis's research revealed that the mechanics are surprisingly similar to the way one of coral's closest cousins, the jellyfish, gets around. The responders found the moose had fallen into the water and was surrounded on all sides by ice, about 200 feet from the town's beach. The rescuers donned cold water rescue gear and ventured out onto the ice. They used a chainsaw to cut a path for the moose to make its way to shallow water, where it could climb out unassisted.	https://www.yahoo.com/news/watch-moose-rescued-falling-ice-181416	2025/01/23	
Name a cricket during Black Pine Animal Sanctuary's 'Cricket Karma' Valentine's Day fundraiser	Weird world	Black Pine Animal Sanctuary's "Cricket Karma" fundraiser returns this Valentine's Day, allowing community members to name a cricket, which will be fed to one of its animals, after someone who "annoys you most." Black Pine Animal Sanctuary is a multi-species animal sanctuary accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries. It provides refuge to displaced, captive-raised exotic animals for the rest of their lives and educates people about responsible animal care and conservation.	https://www.21alivenews.com/2025/01/22/name-cricket-during-black-pi	2025/01/23	
Trained dogs working inside hospitals help ease burnout among health care staff	Weird world	The organization says to participate in the fundraiser all you have to do is send a donation and name the cricket. From there, its staff will feed the crickets to one of their animals and let you watch. A pair of dogs, tails wagging, had come by a nearby nursing station, causing about a dozen medical professionals to melt into a collective puddle of affection. A yellow Lab named Peppi showered Fraser in nuzzles and kisses. "I don't know if a human baby smells as good as that puppy breath!" Fraser had said as her colleagues laughed. The dogs aren't visitors. They work here, too, specifically for the benefit of the staff. "I feel like that dog just walks on and everybody takes a big deep breath and gets down on the ground and has a few moments of just decompressing," Fraser said. "It's great. It's amazing."	https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/01/24/nx-s1-5271	2025/01/24	
Stick with us: Why the internet is obsessed with one of the simplest tools known to man	Weird world	Slick Nation is a worldwide movement that thrives on irreverent, fantastical and downright wholesome descriptions of sticks and the people who rank them. An account posting videos of people and their sticks has nearly 3 million followers on Instagram. On TikTok, it's known, appropriately, as StickTok. There are posts about sticks shaped like hands, ones that resemble snakes, slingshot sticks, wizard staffs, curved canes and spiraled, twisted and beetle-gnawed sticks. The sticks are said to have mystical powers, and the puns are plentiful, like the "Log Ness Monster," found on the banks of Loch Ness in Scotland.	https://www.npr.org/2025/01/23/nx-s1-5260230/slick-nation-sticktok	2025/01/24	
Live in the northernmost town on Earth, where alcohol is rationed and polar bears are a common threat	Weird world	In Svalbard, residents need a special card to purchase alcohol, and a monthly limit regulates how much a resident can buy. Most residents can buy up to two bottles of spirits and 24 cans of beer each month. When I got the keys to my first apartment, I was told that all houses must have a garbage disposal to ensure no food scraps that might attract bears are left outside. ... Despite Longyearbyen's remote location, the internet connection here is exceptional. That's because high-speed underwater fiber cables connect communications between Svalbard and mainland Norway. ... One of the most surprising aspects of life in Longyearbyen is that residents are encouraged to carry a rifle and a flare gun when venturing beyond the settlement.	https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/live-northernmost-town-earth-where-14	2025/01/24	